



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,817

TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 1999

(1R50p) 45p



**Meningitis:
a survivor's
tale** REVIEW FRONT

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW THE HEALTH

Backbench revolt over Mandelson takes shine off Labour's relaunch

TONY BLAIR'S attempts to fight back after the Government's "Black Christmas" suffered a reverse last night as he was embroiled in a new row over the future of Peter Mandelson.

The Government had put the NHS at the top of its agenda - with Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, being called to Downing Street for talks about the hospitals crisis, and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, hinting at a generous pay rise for nurses - but the effort to switch the focus from personalities to policies was hampered by a rebellion by some ministers and senior MPs against the Prime Minister's apparent desire to ensure a swift return to the political front line for Mr Mandelson.

Mr Blair's critics are furious that Mr Mandelson attended a meeting last Friday of a joint working party set up by the British and German governments. This fuelled speculation that the former trade secretary, who resigned three weeks ago, could be back in the Cabinet within a year. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is leading the opposition to such a move. "We will not have it," a backbench ally of Mr Prescott said last night. "There will come a point at which Tony Blair will have to choose."

Members of the Parliamentary Committee, which represents Labour MPs in talks with the Government, intend to raise the issue when they meet Mr Blair tomorrow. "We don't see why Mr Mandelson should have any role at all," a senior source said yesterday.

In a further twist, it emerged that Mr Mandelson suspects reports about an early comeback are being fuelled by his enemies, who were delighted that he resigned after revelations about his £373,000 personal

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

loan from Geoffrey Robinson, the former paymaster-general. Last night, Mr Mandelson sought to dampen speculation about his future. "Talk of a comeback is very premature," a spokesman said. "Peter's priorities are to sort out his life and start to rebuild his political career. It is too early to say what he will do and those in the media who suggest otherwise are wrong."

Downing Street denied that Mr Blair was already planning Mr Mandelson's return. "The idea that people are sitting around in Downing Street discussing what Peter Mandelson might or might not do in the future bears no relation to reality," it said.

Mr Blair's official spokesman insisted there were no plans for Mr Mandelson to have an expanded role as a roving ambassador in Europe. He said the former minister represented the Labour Party, and not the Government, at last Friday's Anglo-German meeting.

The row over Mr Mandelson's future came as Mr Blair and Labour MPs called on the Cabinet to end the faction-fighting which was blamed for the

resignations of Mr Mandelson, Mr Robinson and Charlie Whelan, Mr Brown's press secretary.

Jack Cunningham, Mr Blair's cabinet "enforcer", admitted the problems of the past three weeks had "done some damage", and he warned: "It is important that the Government not only works as a team but is seen to work as a team. That is what the Prime Minister wants from his colleagues in Cabinet." Clive Soley, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, called for a halt to "personal feuds" and said a line must be drawn under the Mandelson affair.

Mr Brown, meanwhile, sought to cement his alliance with the Prime Minister by repeatedly praising him in a speech in Edinburgh. He hailed Mr Blair's "historic achievement" in modernising the party and the country. The Chancellor also gave a strong hint that low-paid nurses would receive a big pay rise this April, insisting that the Government's extra resources for the NHS would deliver "a better service for patients, hand in hand with a fair deal for nurses".

Mr Brown's speech was the first in a series of ministerial announcements scheduled for this week, but Downing Street denied that they amounted to a "relaunch" of the Government.

The Liberal Democrats dismissed the initiative as "a re-announcement of old policies" and the Tories said: "You only relaunch a failing brand."

There was further embarrassment for Labour yesterday when Channel 4 News said Mr Cunningham had "walked out" of his studio before he was interviewed about the cabinet fightback, and a senior Labour official admitted the Government was looking "a bit like a soap opera".



Gordon Brown in Edinburgh yesterday. The Chancellor promised 'a better service for patients, and a fair deal for nurses' David Cheskin

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New terror link to Briton held prisoner in Yemen

A SON and step-son of a leading Muslim cleric based in London are at the centre of allegations linking British Islamists to a terror campaign in the Yemen.

The Independent has learnt that Mohsin Ghalain, 18, one of five Britons due to be charged either today or tomorrow over a plot to blow up Western targets in the Yemen, is the step-son of Sheikh Abu Hamza, imam at a mosque in north London. Mustapha Hamza, 17, a son of Sheikh Hamza, is also wanted by the Yemeni authorities who claim he fled when he learnt he was being hunted.

The revelations follow the statement by the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, in the Commons yesterday of the imminent moves against the "Birmingham Five" as he announced the appointment of a new anti-terrorism expert to help free British hostages abroad.

In his statement, Mr Cook

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE,
JOHN DAVISON
AND PAUL WAUGH

said that Abdul-Karim al-Iryani, Yemen's Prime Minister, had given his personal assurance that the men would be charged within the next 48 hours.

The revelations will add to the diplomatic row ensuing between Britain and Yemen over the five Britons, who were arrested on Christmas Eve for an alleged plot to attack targets including the British consulate in Aden.

Sheikh Hamza said yesterday he had not heard from Mustapha since he left Britain six weeks ago, purporting to pursue his Islamic studies in Saudi Arabia. He added that he believed his step-son had been tortured by the authorities who he said were trying to force a confession from him. "I am sure they have been torturing him to make him admit to something he did not do," he said.



Sheikh Abu Hamza

Based at the North London Central Mosque in Finsbury Park, Sheikh Hamza runs an organisation called Supporters of Shariah which acts as a mouthpiece for various Islamic groups.

Sheikh Hamza was telephoned by Abu Hassan, head of a rebel group who seized 12 British tourists in Yemen, the day they kidnapped them. He

said they were acting in response to British and American action against Iraq.

Dr Iryani had also promised that no force would be used to rescue John Brooke, the British oil worker kidnapped on Saturday by Yemeni tribesmen, without prior consultation with the UK.

His pledge follows a letter from the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, demanding that he ensure that there will be no repeat of the bungled rescue attempt that saw three British tourists lose their lives in a shoot-out with terrorists last month.

The families of the British men, Shahid Butt, 33, Malik Nassar Barhara, 26, Samad Ahmed, 21, Ghulam Hussein, 25, and Mohsin Ghalain, 18, vigorously deny the allegations against them.

Claim and counter-claim, page 3

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FO helping to sell cigarettes in Third World

BRITISH EMBASSIES are offering support and advice to tobacco companies under new guidelines being drawn up by the Foreign Office.

It emerges as two of the biggest cigarette groups in the world, British American Tobacco and Rothmans International, announced a £13bn merger.

Anti-smoking organisations condemned the move, claiming it would result in developing countries in Asia and Africa being targeted as the tobacco companies try to maintain their sales in a dwindling market.

Campaigners also claimed that health ministers had lost a battle to curb support for UK tobacco firms.

Although embassies will be banned from directly promoting tobacco, the companies can expect to continue to accompany ministers on trade missions, take part in trade fairs and be invited to "networking" drinks parties.

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

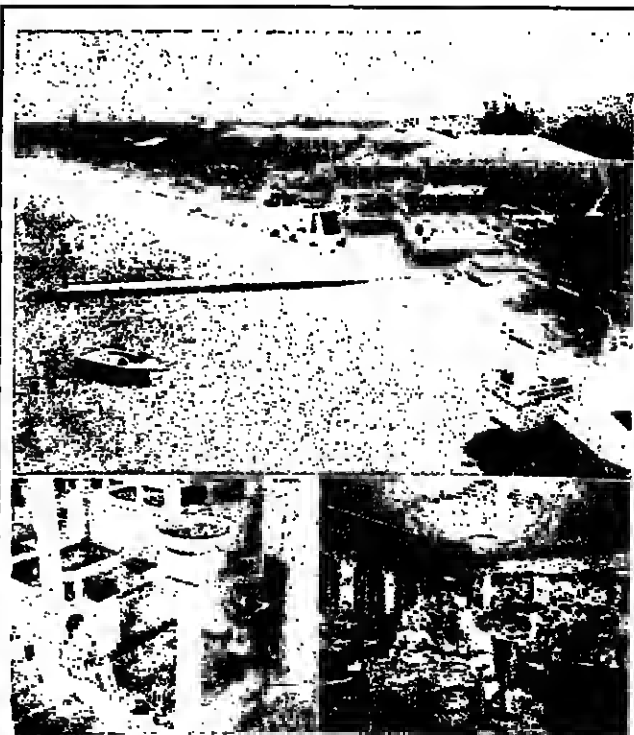
Embassy staff will be told they must offer the same legal advice and support to tobacco companies that they give to other British firms. This will include information on local markets which may help them to win business ahead of foreign competitors.

The support will be particularly helpful as the tobacco firms are facing a ban on sponsorship as well as the decline in smoking in the West.

Hard-sell marketing techniques in the Third World have included handing out free cigarettes to teenagers and sponsoring nightclubs and discos.

Although the Department of Health has taken a strong line against tobacco, Downing Street and the Foreign Office are anxious to protect exports.

Tobacco merger, page 6
Shares soar, page 13



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	England	50 SH	Czech Republic	112 K	Poland	16.00 PF																		

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■ FASHION
THE MILAN MENSWEAR
COLLECTIONS
■ PLUS THEATRE,
MIDWEEK MONEY
& FINANCE

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE McFARLANE, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILLS KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

The *Tomorrow's World* presenter Philippa Forrester at the Science Museum, in London, yesterday for the launch of the Royal Mail's Millennium stamp collection which depicts British inventions John Voos

David Trimble's Ulster Unionists insisted there had to be decommissioning before they would consider Sinn Féin's entry to the Executive and the Democratic Unionist leader the Rev Ian Paisley vowed to fight the Government in the courts if it pressed ahead with plans to allow Sinn Féin a role in running Northern Ireland without prior IRA decommissioning.

A neighbour, who asked not to be identified, said the two women had lived there for about ten years. "They kept themselves to themselves very much. They used to come out of the house to walk their dogs but they didn't mix," she said.

[illegible][illegible]

Riddle of Yemen's shifting sands ensnares muddled Foreign Office

BY JOHN DAVISON AND
ERIC WATKINS

YEMEN, situated on the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula, has been one of the world's most strategically important places since the days of the spice trade. Always a hotbed of rumour and political intrigue, every twist in the current crisis of hostages and plots is again commanding the closest international attention.

Yesterday the story of five British detainees accused of terrorist activity came down to claim and counter claim between the Yemeni government and the representatives and families of those being held.

The British government was also directing its efforts to trying to secure the safe release of John Brooke, the latest hostage to be taken in the country.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia have long accused Britain of being a centre for terrorist opposition to their regimes. Could they now have the proof they have been looking for?

Links established between the detainees, the hostage-taking group and a London-based organisation suggest this could prove to be so. On the other hand, suspicion still exists that the Yemen government could be using the situation to sidestep its responsibility for the hanged hostage rescue and subsequent deaths last month.

Of the detainees, one is said to have made a detailed confession of involvement in a plot to bomb British targets in Aden over Christmas. He has also allegedly confirmed links between the plot and the Islamic group led by Abu Hassan, responsible for the kidnapping of 16 Westerners which resulted in four being shot dead on 29 December.

But then there are claims by three of the men to the local British consul general that they had been tortured. Their families have maintained that none of them has had any involvement in terrorism.

Behind all this are the shifting sands of Middle East power-broking, with implica-



Shahid Butt (top), Ghulam Hussein and Samad Ahmed (bottom), and (main picture) Abu Hassan, in prison awaiting trial on kidnapping charges



tions that include the campaign by Western governments against Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq and the Saudi dissident, Osama bin Laden.

Supporters and relatives of the detained men are claiming racism and incompetence against the Government's handling of their cases. If the claims of torture are upheld and the men are released, allegations that more could and should have been done for them sooner will intensify.

But if the men do go to trial and some or all are found guilty then the problems will double.

Any found guilty would be condemned to death, and a huge campaign for their release would be certain among the Muslim community in Britain.

Britain's position would be badly damaged by the revelation that a plot to bomb British targets abroad had been organised in this country and involved British citizens, apparently protesting at the British involvement in the bombing of Iraq.

If links between the British men and the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army, led by Abu Hassan, which carried out the kidnappings last month, were established then the Yemeni government could effectively deflect any criticism of their handling of the affair.

Samad Ahmed, 21, of Birmingham said he had been hung upside down and beaten; Shahid Butt, 33, also of Birmingham, said he had been blindfolded, his feet beateo and a confession extracted; Mohsin Ghalain, 18, of London, reported he had been repeatedly hit during his first week in detention, and was said to be suffering from liver problems.

The claims are consistent with past human rights abuses reported in the country. Amnesty International, in its last report on Yemen in 1997, outlined the same torture techniques among a long list which also included electric shocks, burning with cigarettes and victims being walked on while lying naked on concrete.

All torture is theoretically banned under Yemeni law. The country is also a signatory to most human-rights treaties.

The Amnesty report, however, stated: "Suspected political opponents to the government and critics of the

state are frequently targeted for arbitrary arrest and administrative detention, which is invariably followed by lengthy incommunicado detention, during which detainees are denied access to families and lawyers. Such conditions have facilitated the systematic use of torture."

Against this is the claim from Yemeni authorities that Mr Ghalain had given a full confession at the weekend, allegedly admitting to being paid \$2,000 (£1,600) to bomb the British Consulate in Aden, the Anglican church there and the city's biggest tourist hotel.

He is also said to have admitted having two meetings with Abu Hassan, leader of the group responsible for the kidnapping of the 16 Western hostages. Security sources in Yemen say Mr Ghalain got explosives and weapons from Mr Hassan to carry out the campaign.

Four days after the British group were arrested, Mr Hassan's organisation carried out the kidnapping which ended tragically. Yemeni government sources have said that the release of the British group was the main ransom demand.

YEMEN TIMETABLE

16-19 December 1998
Britain and US bomb Yemen's ally Iraq. Government in Sanaa criticises bombing as 'flagrant aggression'

27 December 1998
Iraqi foreign minister arrives in Yemen for talks.

28 December 1998
16 Western hostages kidnapped in Mawdiyah by Islamic fighters of the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army.

28/29 December 1998
Abu Hamza, disabled Afghan veteran and imam of the Finsbury Park mosque in north London, takes satellite phone call from the kidnappers and releases information to Arab media.

29 December 1998
Yemen troops block attempted rescue. 4 hostages killed in shootout. 3 Britons and 1 Australian.

30 December 1998
Imam Abu Hamza blames Yemen government for deaths of hostages.

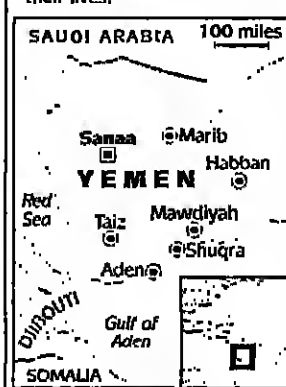
30 December 1998
Diplomatic row erupts between Yemen and UK over tragic rescue attempt.

1 January 1999
Scotland Yard and FBI arrive in Yemen to assist with the kidnapping enquiry but denied access to captured kidnappers.

6 January 1999
Yemen now reveals that 6 Britons arrested on the 24 December "have links" to the original kidnap group.

8 January 1999
Yemen president says UK harbours terrorists.

10 January 1999
Imam Abu Hamza is blamed in Yemen's government media for sending 6 Britons to Yemen. His son and step son are in Yemen and he fears for their lives.



Mosque is heart of terror claim

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A MOSQUE in north London and its imam are emerging as being central to the affair of the Yemeni hostages and the five Britons arrested as suspected terrorists.

A son and a stepson of the Egyptian-born imam, Sheikh Abu Hamza, have been named by Yemeni authorities as being part of an alleged plot to blow up Western targets in Yemen, including the British consulate.

One of the sons, Mustapha, is being sought by the Yemeni authorities, who say he fled after learning he was being hunted. Sheikh Hamza's stepson, Mohsen Ghalain, is being held with four other Britons by officials in Aden who believe they have uncovered a terrorist plot.

Last night Sheikh Hamza, who lost his hands and the sight of one eye while defusing a mine in Afghanistan, where he was an Islamic fighter, said: "I am convinced he has been tortured to admit to things he has not done. I am waiting to see a picture of him."

He had not seen Mustapha



The north London mosque of Sheikh Abu Hamza

for at least six weeks when he left Britain to travel to Saudi Arabia to pursue his Islamic studies.

But Sheikh Hamza's links to the affair go further than that. Operating from the north London Central Mosque in Finsbury Park, or from his home in west London, Sheikh Hamza, 41, runs an organisation called Supporters of Shariah that acts as a hi-tech mouthpiece for a range of Islamic groups, including those that have turned to terror. He spreads the word of jihad with a vitriolic website, pamphlets and training courses for radicals. The sheikh, who also uses the name Hamza al-Masri, confirmed yesterday that when the 16 tourists were kidnapped on 28 December, he received a satellite phone call from the kidnappers' leader, Abu Hassan, who said he had taken them to put "pressure on America and Britain to stop the oppression in Iraq and Palestine." He added: "He said he hoped he would not do it [shoot the tourists] but make it a negotiated matter."

Sheikh Hamza makes no apologies for acting as a mouthpiece for groups that use violence. "We speak for all different Islamic groups if we think they are justified in using force in the fight for Islam. We don't care what other people think of them," Sheikh Hamza may not care, but others do. Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist unit yesterday confirmed it was "aware" of him, though it declined to elaborate.

Other Muslims are also concerned. A local who used to use the Finsbury Park mosque said it had been "taken over" by the sheikh. At the nearby Muslim Welfare House, which also doubles as a mosque, a receptionist said they refused to stock Sheikh Hamza's pamphlets. "We do not agree with his views," he said.

Sheikh Hamza and his friends paint a different picture. The sheikh says he studied civil engineering, first in Alexandria, and then at Brighton University. The university was yesterday unable to confirm he had been a student. The sheikh's associate, Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed, said he provided training for young Islamic scholars.

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When Britons were the torturers

BY PAUL LASHMAR
AND CHRIS STAERK

SECRET FOREIGN Office documents graphically recording events in the Yemen 30 years ago, have just been released at the Public Record Office, and provide a powerful echo of the current strife in that country. Political turmoil, terrorist action, shoot-outs, kidnapping and allegations of torture by the police are recorded, then as now. The only difference is that the British were still ruling Aden - now part of Yemen. Then it was the British that were being accused of torturing detainees.

These were the last days of Britain's rule in Aden which gained independence in November 1967. Britain was trying to hand power over to a pro-British faction but other nationalist groups were mounting a successful campaign of terror.



1967: British troops in Aden help an injured comrade

The British-run security forces were accused of torturing people suspected of belonging to the National Liberation Front (NLF). In the first six months of 1967 alone, there were 150 allegations of brutality from Arab detainees. Amnesty International took up the charges and in February

1967 the organisation's chairman visited the Foreign Office minister George Thomson in Whitehall. The High Commissioner in Aden, Sir Richard Turnbull, wrote to the Foreign Office: "The element of exaggeration and pure fabrication, coupled with the Arab gift for the histrionic, have made it

very difficult to distinguish allegations worthy of serious consideration from the rest."

Other Foreign Office correspondence makes clear that with the British intelligence network all but destroyed, interrogation was the only way to get information on the rival FLOSY (Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen) and NLF terrorist groups.

Following pressure by Amnesty, an inquiry was held and a Foreign Office official was accused but acquitted of ill-treating a detainee.

In July 1967, the new High Commissioner, Sir Humphrey Trevelyan told the Foreign Office: "Things have gone from bad to worse in Aden, security incidents continue at the rate of about 20 a day and unless the locals stop chasing expatriate businessmen away, the Adeni will only inherit debt and a stinking pile of rubble."

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Inspector says boot camp is a success

A CONTROVERSIAL "boot camp" introduced by the former home secretary Michael Howard as part of the Conservative government's "get tough" policy on youth crime was yesterday given a glowing report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

When it was set up in 1996, Thorn Cross Young Offender Institution in Cheshire became the target of criticism that it was a step in the direction of the military-style camps used to deal with young offenders in the United States.

But Sir David Ramsbotham said that the regime at Thorn Cross was far more progressive than it had originally been

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

is far removed from the often very destructive nature of prison life.

Of the 218 prisoners who had joined the HIT project, which makes up one of five units at the open establishment near Warrington, some 161 had completed it successfully. The report said the daily regime was "very long and physically demanding", and inmates were expected to maintain military standards of cleanliness.

Sir David said a similar unit should be opened in the south of England and the best practices from Thorn Cross should be adopted in all other prison establishments housing young people.

An even more draconian army-run Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, Essex, was closed last year after only a year in operation amid concern that the results did not justify the high cost of £31,000 a year per inmate.

Paul Cavadin, director of policy at the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said the lesson from Thorn Cross was the opposite of that suggested by most "boot camp" supporters, showing that positive regimes produced positive results.

"It is ironic that the last government chose to introduce the high-intensity training regime to the accompaniment of punitive rhetoric and references to 'boot camps'," he said.

"In fact, the regime is a thoroughly constructive one with a strong emphasis on education, community work, preparation for employment and work to change offending behaviour."

The report said it was too soon to say whether the unit succeeded in cutting reoffending rates among young offenders, but it is understood that initial results have been encouraging.

The Prison Service said official figures for the cost of a place on the HIT project were not available but were likely to be included in the first evaluation of the scheme, due to be published in the summer. The average cost of a place in a young offenders' institution is around £23,000 per year.



Linda Stewart, who is to receive a payout for the psychological trauma she suffered as a result of the Dunblane massacre

AP

Payout for teacher traumatised by horror of Dunblane shooting

A NURSERY TEACHER who witnessed the horrifying aftermath of the Dunblane massacre is to receive a compensation payout for severe psychological trauma.

Linda Stewart, 48, who has not worked since the March 1996 shooting in which 16 children and their teacher were killed, has already received an interim payout from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Four other members of staff are still on sick leave.

Mrs Stewart arrived in the school gym minutes after the

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

massacre took place, and helped tend the wounded and dying children until ambulances arrived.

She still suffers flashbacks and nightmares, rarely gets to sleep before 3am, and cannot light a match because the smell reminds her of gunsmoke.

"I feel like I'm trapped in a gilded cage with no way out. My house is surrounded by security lights because I am terrified of the dark and I won't even

answer the door if I'm alone", said Mrs Stewart, who lives near the primary school.

Yesterday the blinds were down at Mrs Stewart's Dunblane home and it was believed by her neighbours that she had gone away.

The payment to Mrs Stewart contrasts with a recent House of Lords ruling that police officers who suffered severe mental trauma at the Hillsborough football stadium disaster were not entitled to compensation.

The sum for Mrs Stewart has not been disclosed and the

CICB refuses to discuss individual cases. However precedents suggest that it could be in the region of £20,000.

Under the CICB tariffs, victims can claim between £1,000 and £20,000 for serious stress. The amount depends on how long the "disabling mental disorder" lasts. If it is very transient, the award is £1,000, rising to £2,500 if suffered for up to 28 weeks, £4,000 for up to a year and £7,500 if it lasts for more than a year but is not permanent, which attracts the highest possible sum, £20,000.

Scotland's biggest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland welcomed the award. The union's general secretary Ronnie Smith said yesterday: "While we desperately hope that there will be very few, if any, further incidents of teachers having to make use of the criminal injury compensation facilities, they are nevertheless as entitled as any other citizens to benefit from provisions that Parliament has put in place to help those people who are victims of crime, whether directly or indirectly."

Hughes' collection of 88 poems caused a literary sensation when it was published. It was the first time he had broken his silence about his stormy relationship with Plath and interest in the book grew even greater after his death.

The T S Eliot prize, which is in its sixth year, is awarded by the Poetry Book Society.

The other poets shortlisted for this year's prize were: Sarah Corbett, Fred D'Aguiar, David Harries, Jackie Kay, Glyn Maxwell, Paul Muldoon, Ruth Padel, Jo Shapcott and Ken Smith. The judges were Mr O'Donoghue and two other poets, Simon Armitage and Maura Dooley.

This year's prize had the bonus of a stay at Charingworth Manor Hotel, the setting for "Burnt Norton", one of Eliot's *Four Quartets*. A spokeswoman said a member of the Hughes family would be offered the weekend break.

Who needs poets?
Review page 10



Evans: Harassment

Virgin fined £10,000 for Evans stunt

VIRGIN RADIO has been fined £10,000 by watchdogs after the owner and presenter Chris Evans broadcast a photographer's mobile-phone number and urged listeners to harass him.

Mr Evans gave out Mel Bouzad's number after he was allegedly involved in a scuffle with the Oasis star Liam Gallagher. Mr Evans told listeners

BY JACKIE BURDON

to his Virgin Radio show to ring Mr Bouzad and "hound him until he goes to bed."

The Radio Authority said: "The... photographer claimed to have received over 700 calls, including death-threats." Mr Evans's remarks constituted "a serious abuse of the airwaves and a breach of its Programme

Code" on the privacy of individuals.

It is the second-highest penalty the authority has imposed. "The... authority does not condone the behaviour of any photographers who invade privacy, but it has no jurisdiction over any such allegations."

"However, to broadcast personal details about someone without prior permission, and

to urge harassment, is a very serious matter." A Virgin Radio spokeswoman said: "We accept the Radio Authority ruling."

The biggest fine imposed by the Radio Authority was £20,000 for taste and decency. That was also against Virgin Radio, but in 1994, when it was under different management.

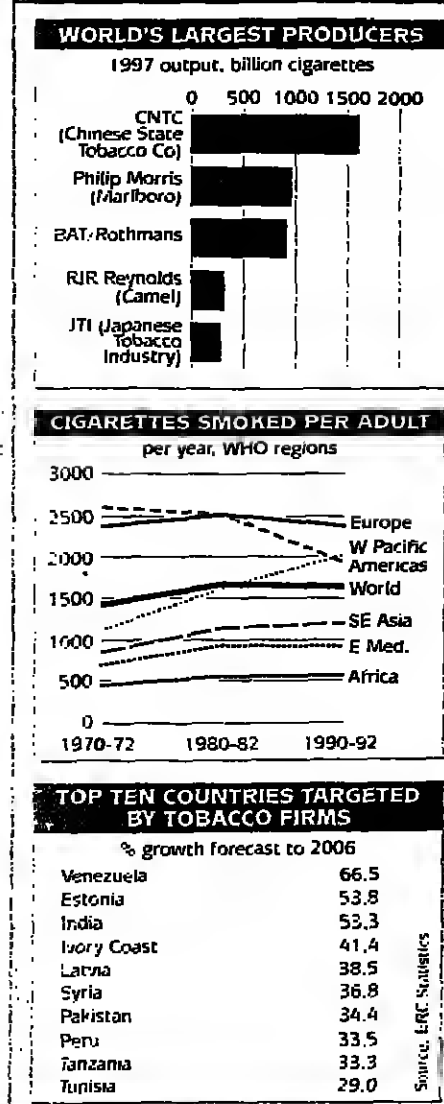
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BIG CIGARETTE FIRMS INCREASINGLY TARGET PEOPLE OF THE THIRD WORLD



Producer defends 'negative' film on du Pré

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

THE PRODUCER of an acclaimed new film about the cellist Jacqueline du Pré has made a stinging attack on the musician Julian Lloyd Webber, accusing him of stirring up controversy simply to promote himself and his new album.

Andy Paterson, who is behind the new movie *Hilary and Jackie*, was responding to Lloyd Webber's claims that the film tarnishes the late du Pré's reputation.

The film, which stars Emily Watson as Jacqueline du Pré, is based on the book *A Genius in the Family* by her brother Piers and sister Hilary, which details multiple sclerosis suffered Jackie's nervous breakdown and her affair with Hilary's husband.

Lloyd Webber had written in *Classic FM Magazine*: "My main impression is that these revelations are the ultimate act of spite and bitterness."

Mr Lloyd Webber has written 'Jackie's Song' - released yesterday - in response to the movie, which he said focused on the negative aspects of the cellist's life, rather than celebrating her music.

However, Mr Paterson said: "He didn't meet her until she was five years into her illness, so I just don't understand how he can say he knew her better than her own sister."

"Far from tarnishing her memory we'll enhance it and bring it to a new audience. Most of the world has no idea who Jacqueline du Pré is. It's certainly the case that he is exploiting this to promote his CD and himself."

Mr Lloyd Webber said that when the piece was written there were no plans for it to be included on a CD. It was his record company that found space for its release.

"I think they will find I am just the first of a lot of musicians who will speak out for Jacqueline du Pré," added the cellist, who premiered 'Jackie's Song' in London yesterday.

Tobacco giants in £13bn merger

TWO OF the world's biggest tobacco companies announced their plans to join forces yesterday and create a £13bn cigarette rolling machine.

The merger of British American Tobacco (BAT) and Rothmans International was hailed by the City, which sent their shares spiralling upwards, but was condemned by anti-smoking campaigners who said it amounted to a declaration of war on the developing world.

The deal will create a global corporation producing a staggering 900 billion cigarettes a year at a time when tobacco sales are declining in the West.

With a war chest swollen by savings from rationalisation - jobs will go, a BAT spokesman admitted yesterday - the new multi-national is expected to target the growing markets in

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

China, Africa, India and the Far East. In doing so, it is set to cause more deaths than any war, disease or famine has yet claimed.

It is estimated that cigarettes will claim four million lives a year worldwide by 2000 and ten million a year by 2030, of which seven million will be in the developing world, according to health experts.

But the question is whether the tobacco industry dies before its customers. The Nineties has been a decade of unparalleled turmoil for the industry in the West, with anti-smoking legislation and a clutch of multi-billion dollar lawsuits turning smokers into social pariahs. The marriage of BAT and Roth-

mans is set to be followed by further partnerships as the industry retrenches and repositions itself.

The anti-smoking pressure group Ash claimed yesterday that more people would die worldwide as a result of the deal. The British Medical Association said: "This is an industry on the defensive. What is alarming is that it is overtly striving to recruit new smokers in the developing world because it is under huge pressure in Western markets."

The deal will reinforce BAT's position as the world's second biggest private cigarette company, behind the United States company Philip Morris, makers of Marlboro. Rothmans is the fourth largest cigarette group and the combined operation, which employs 2,300 people in

the United Kingdom, will control more than 16 per cent of the global cigarette market, 1 per cent less than Philip Morris's share. The new company will still be well behind the state-owned Chinese National Tobacco Corporation, thought to hold about one-third of the market.

Only Rothmans, which makes Peter Stuyvesant, Dunhill and Winfield, has an agreement with Philip Morris to market Marlboro in Britain, has significant sales in the UK. BAT's international brands include State Express 555, Lucky Strike, Kent, Players and Pall Mall. It also makes Benson & Hedges for sale outside the UK - Britain's B&Hs are made by Gallaher.

Despite the retreat from smoking in the West, global sales are continuing to rise, up by one-quarter since 1980. Es-

timates suggest that smoking is declining by 1 per cent a year in industrialised countries but rising by 2 per cent a year in the developing world.

BAT has cashed in on this growing Third World market. It sells 240 brands manufactured in more than 50 countries and owns the top selling brand in 30 markets. Analysts calculate, however, that Western companies have barely scratched the surface of markets in the developing world - for instance, in China barely one in ten cigarettes sold comes from a Western manufacturer, the remainder being produced by the state-owned corporation.

Partly because of government involvement in the industry, China is heading for the world's greatest smoking disaster claiming the lives of an

estimated 100 million Chinese men now under 30, one-third of the young male population.

The figure is based on the hazards of tobacco in which scientists from China, the US and Britain interviewed the families of one million people who died between 1986 and 1988. Professor Richard Peto, of Oxford University, one of the principal authors of the study published in the *British Medical Journal*, said Chinese adults severely underestimated the risks of smoking, with 60 per cent unaware that it caused lung cancer.

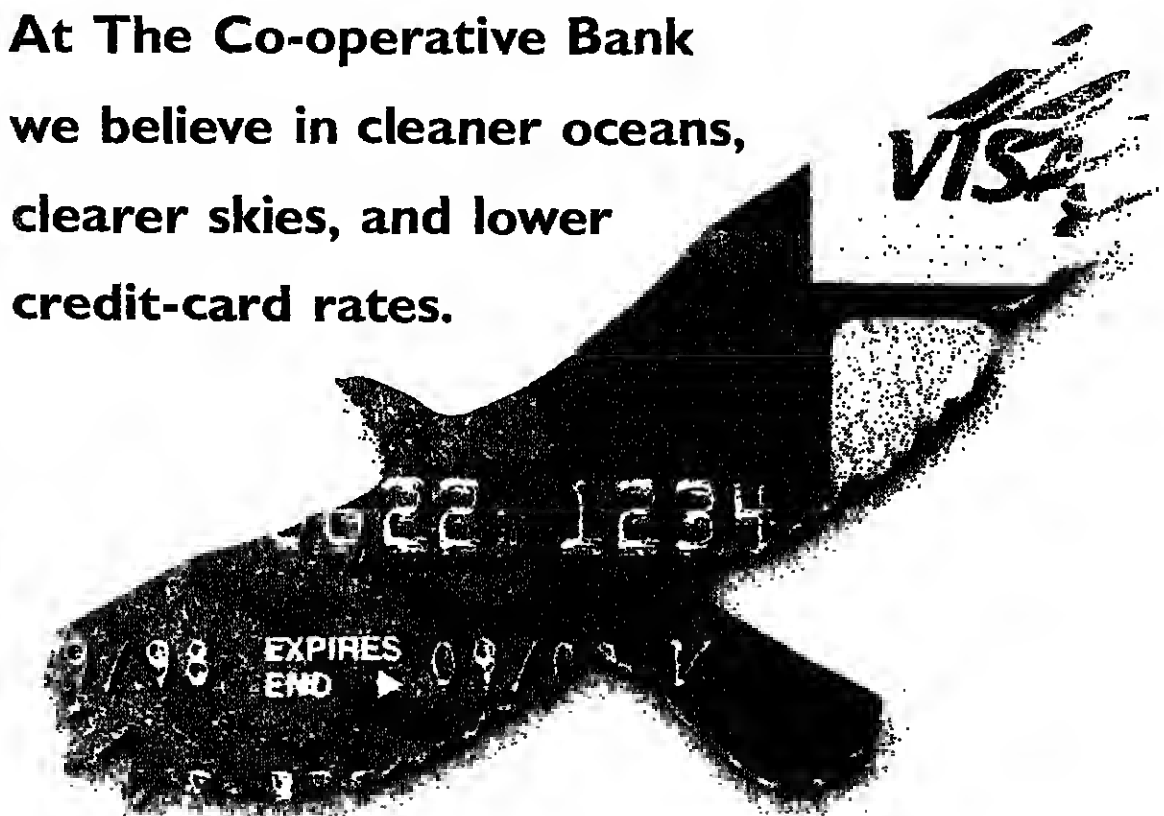
Yesterday, Professor Peto said: "If this merger means more cigarette sales it'll mean more cigarette deaths because half of all smokers eventually get killed by their habit unless they can manage to quit. BAT and

Rothmans currently provide one-sixth of the world's tobacco. The cigarettes sold by these two companies are already causing more than half a million deaths a year and 20 years from now they will be causing a million deaths a year worldwide."

Tobacco companies are already targeting young people in promotional events across the developing world. In 1997, BAT sponsored China's first rave event in the town of Shenzhen. The company logo was displayed prominently on video screens and elsewhere in the night club. In Malaysia, the company evades the ban on direct advertising by promoting the "Benson and Hedges Bistro" - a coffee shop in Kuala Lumpur. Advertisements for the cafe are broadcast across the country. Shares soar, page 13

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Two climbers fall 600 feet in Scotland - and survive

TWO CLIMBERS escaped with relatively minor injuries at the weekend after falling 600 feet "like rag dolls" down a cliff face on the Grampian peak of Lochnagar, the jewel of the Queen's Balmoral estate.

The two climbers who survived the fall on the favourite mountain of the Prince of Wales were Thomas Nye, 34, who suffered chest injuries and Ingrid Iredale, 20, who escaped with minor facial injuries and a fractured vertebrae. Both students in Edinburgh, they fell from a snow and ice climb known as "parallel gully A".

Sergeant Graham Gibb of the Braemar police-civilian mountain rescue team said Mr Nye and Ms Iredale bounced part of the way down the cliff face, before a 100ft fall cushioned by deep snow.

"It is a freak survival," he said. "There have been many people who have done the same

By STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

thing and lost their lives. They would have been bouncing off rocks, and witnesses who saw it happen said they went down extremely fast, like two rag dolls.

"To have people survive, one with virtually no injuries to speak of, is remarkable and nobody in the team can quite believe it has actually happened. There are any number of rocks there on which people would normally have been battered to death."

Extraordinary circumstances surrounding the accident on Sunday illustrate how crowded popular climbing areas like Lochnagar have become. In superb conditions - bright sunshine, little wind, and crisp snow on the summits - thousands of climbers and winter hikers were out across Scotland.

The students were discovered by rescuers from the Braemar and Aberdeen teams winched down from a helicopter to deal with another accident in which a climber fell from a gully and landed on a separate party of three.

An unnamed climber had fallen from midway up Raeburn's gully and landed on another party heading up the same route. According to rescuers, there were about 40 people gathered underneath the climbing routes, an unusually high number as the weather was good after two poor seasons.

"If you choose to queue for a climb, then you are laying yourself wide open to the possibility of someone falling on you," Sgt Gibb said.

One of the three, Bill Morgan, 51, of Aberdeen, suffered a broken leg. After scaling the cliff, rescuers had to lower Mr Morgan 1,000 feet and carry

him out. He followed the two students to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary for treatment.

Prince Charles gave the mountain celebrity with his story for children, *The Old Man of Lochnagar*. He was following in the footsteps of Lord Byron, who ascended the mountain when aged 15 and later wrote of its "wild and majestic" crags, extolling "the steep frowning glories of dark Lochnagar".

On another Scottish peak, a man died on Sunday as he slid 1,000 feet. Killin mountain rescue recovered the body of John Cooper Bryan, 54, of Balmorock, Strathclyde, who slipped and fell on Ben More, near Crianlarich. He was walking alone.

A search in the Highlands by Dundonnell mountain rescue for two climbers on the 3,472ft An Teallach in Wester Ross was cancelled yesterday when it emerged they had earlier returned to their car and left.

Shake-up for secure hospitals

FRANK DOBSON, the Health Secretary, will today announce a shake-up of Britain's three high-security hospitals in response to the publication of a damning official report.

The 600-page report of the two-year Fallon inquiry into allegations of paedophile activity, drug and alcohol misuse, the availability of pornography and financial irregularities at Ashworth hospital, Merseyside, will be released today, highlighting serious management failings.

The inquiry, led by retired judge Peter Fallon, QC, was ordered in 1997 following claims that an eight-year-old girl had been smuggled into the hospital and that inmates had abused young patients on the wards. The alleged problems were centred on the personality disorder unit.

The former health secre-

By IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

tary Stephen Dorrell set up an inquiry, following claims by Stephen Daggett, a convicted sex offender who absconded during an escorted shopping trip to Liverpool.

Daggett, who is now housed in Rampton special hospital, near Nottingham, told the inquiry at Knutsford Crown Court last year that drugs and hard-core pornography were secretly sold inside the hospital and a near-naked girl was given a piggy-back ride by a convicted paedophile.

A senior doctor at the hospital told the inquiry that she had been aware that a girl was visiting a convicted child-killer, Paul Corrigan, but had given instructions that the visits should be supervised by nurses.

But consultant psychiatrist



Frank Dobson: Expected to impose stricter regime

Dr Zena Crispin denied having knowledge of the same child spending time with convicted paedophile Peter Hemmings.

The panel heard sworn statements from more than 100 patients, staff, medical experts and union representa-

tives. In July, the hospital's chief executive Dr Hilary Hodge, who had been in post for only 10 months, left citing "irretrievable" disagreements with her staff.

The Fallon team is understood to have drawn up more than 50 recommendations. As a result, Mr Dobson is expected to instruct managers to impose much stricter regimes at Ashworth, Rampton and Broadmoor hospital in Berkshire. This is likely to include a clamp-down on the use of computers, swimming pools and tennis courts and greater restrictions on family visits.

The Prison Officers' Association said last night that it was important the Government did not send patients with personality disorders - who are not classed as mentally ill - to jail, where there were insufficient resources to cope with them.

Producer
defends
'negative'
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BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

THE PRODUCER of an acclaimed new film about the life of the composer Benjamin Britten, made a stinging attack on the music critic Julian Lloyd Webber, accusing him of a "negative" attitude towards the composer.

The film, which stars Kate Winslet as Britten's wife, is based on the book *A Gentleman's Game* by Peter and Hilary Brown. The film is a biographical drama about the composer's life and his relationship with his wife.

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Football urged to fund grass roots

MILLIONS OF pounds were promised to the grass roots of football yesterday on the eve of a court case which could decide the Premier League's future.

In a report backed by the Premier League, the Government-appointed Football Task Force recommended that at least 5 per cent of television revenue should be set aside for community projects and the improvement of facilities at amateur and school level.

The apparently generous pledge comes as the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) argues that the Premier League's lucrative sale of television rights is not in the public interest. The OFT will contend in the High Court today that the Premier League has acted like a cartel in securing a £743m deal with BSkyB and the BBC.

The Premier League won support yesterday from the chairman of the task force, David Mellor, who said a victory for the Office of Fair Trading would be "deplorable".

The task force's report said such a ruling: "Could spell the end of re-investment in sport

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

and widen the gap between the divisions. It is demonstrably in the public interest that the current arrangements prevail."

Tony Banks, the sports minister, also expressed his support for the status quo yesterday. "If the OFT was to find against the football authorities and broadcasters it would have damaging implications for the structure of football in this country."

According to the task force, the Premier League will already be spending £50m - or 5 per cent of its income - outside the top division between 1997 and 2001. The report urges that in future the same proportion of revenue be spent primarily on "grass-roots facilities and projects" rather than lower professional divisions.

Speaking as the proposals were unveiled yesterday at the Linford Christie Athletic Stadium in west London, Mr Mellor said: "By investing outside the professional game and through providing emergency support for football clubs they would be able to go some way

in showing how commercial activities can be spread with community responsibilities, bringing benefits to the wider public interest."

Highlighting the plight of grass-roots football, the report gives an example of an unnamed city council in the North-west which had a maintenance backlog of £2.8m at its 38 sports sites, and was using freight containers as changing facilities in many places.

The task force says that the Premier League should encourage greater supporter involvement. It calls for more community schemes which use football to tackle social exclusion. Mr Mellor said: "We are not just talking about youngsters who can become professional footballers, we are talking about youngsters being given an alternative to engaging in anti-social activities."

The game's stars are also criticised. The report says players' contractual obligations to the community were often "more honoured in the breach than the observance".

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David Sheepshanks of the Football League, David Mellor and David Davies with Bentworth and Old Oak primary schools' football teams at the Linford Christie playing fields near Wormwood Scrubs yesterday

Sport, page 19

Treatment but no jail for first drug offence

ALL FIRST-TIME drug-users caught by police in London will be referred to a treatment centre, rather than face prosecution, under a scheme to be outlined by Scotland Yard today.

The Metropolitan Police estimate 30 per cent of crimes are committed to obtain money for drugs. The initial findings of a survey by police across London found a third of people caught breaking the law to feed their drug habit are shoplifters and 15 per cent are burglars.

Scotland Yard's new drugs directorate, headed by Commander Andy Hayman, plans to set up arrest referral schemes throughout the London area by March 2000. Drug-users will be given the option of treatment and referral to a drug worker rather than a fine, a caution or imprisonment. The scheme is aimed at drug users and will not be offered to dealers. If successful, it could be adopted by forces throughout the country.

The Met hopes the approach will help to break the link between drugs and crime. The force is doing research to discover which offences are most common among drug-users.

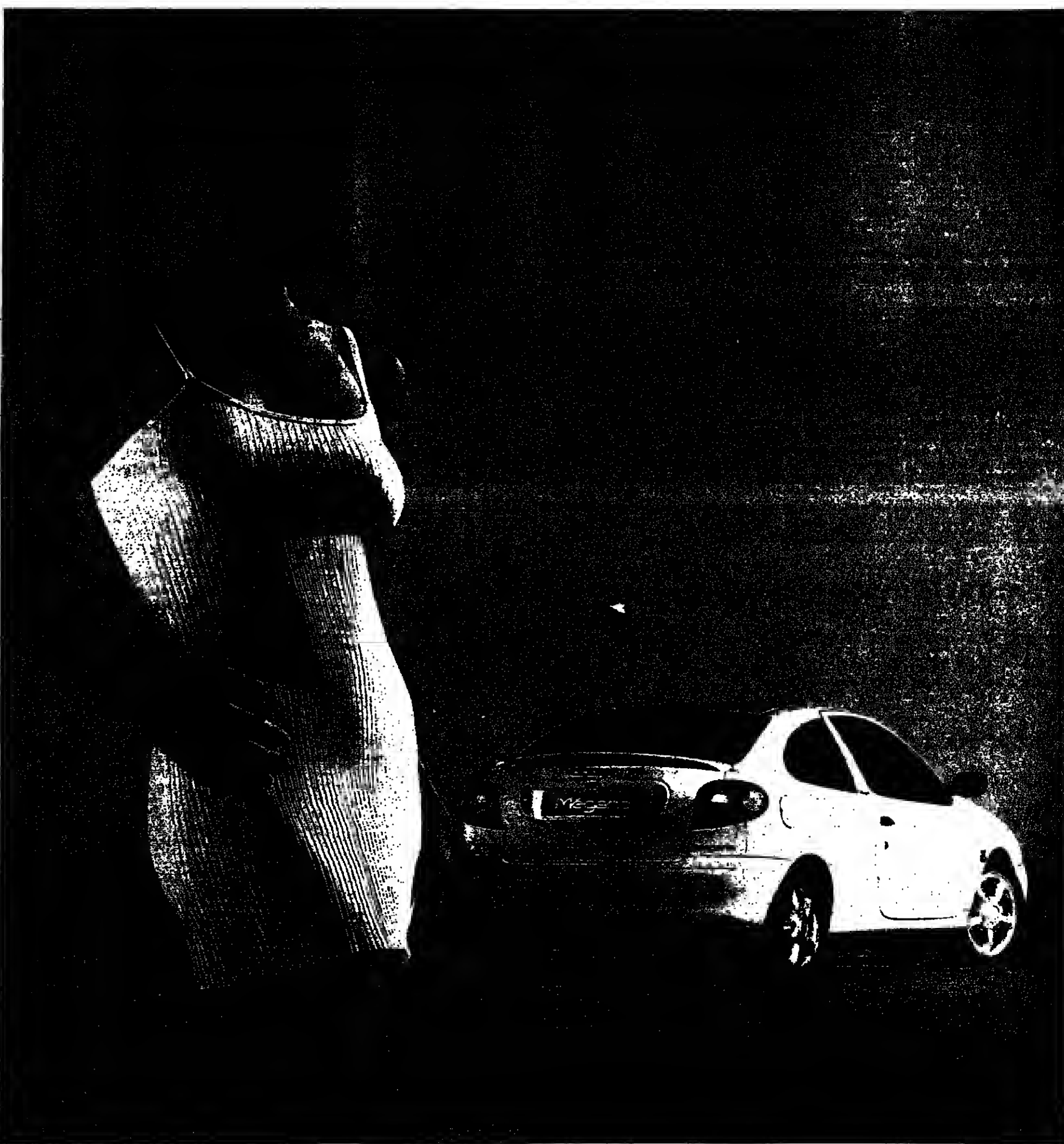
The results are expected to be used to target groups and areas. Analysis of 3,500 drug-re-

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

lated offences during a five-month period last year found 1,250 of them were for thefts from shops, 519 for burglary and 153 for theft from cars.

The Met also announces today a £250,000 anti-drugs campaign that will include posters on buses and warnings on matchboxes and beer-mats. Commander Hayman said: "The key message... is that a high proportion of crime in London is committed by a small number of prolific offenders who misuse drugs. If we can target these individuals and either divert them away from their drug use or put them before the courts, then we can have a dramatic impact on crime across the capital."

Two doctors have volunteered to run the first official patient trials testing the therapeutic effects of cannabis. Anita Holdcroft, from Hammersmith Hospital, London, will investigate whether the drug or its active components can relieve post-operative pain. A trial investigating its effects on multiple-sclerosis sufferers will be done by John Zajicek, of Derriford Hospital, Plymouth.



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Crass Howard takes the heat off the Foreign Secretary

THERE WAS no sign of alcohol in the glass beside the Foreign Secretary, who looked totally sober, not to say grave, as he rose to make his Commons statement on the British nationals kidnapped or killed recently in Yemen.

Robin Cook's statement was drafted in the careful dip-speak essential when terrorism, abduction or death threaten British citizens abroad. Normally it would have been made to an empty House, with few MPs able to point to Yemen on a map. But Mr Cook was the man of the moment, the latest minister in trouble after three weeks of disaster for the Government.

It was not all bad news. While Mr Cook may not be the most user-friendly Government minister, he is the epitome of charm and dignity when up against Michael Howard. In a crass single sentence the Conservative spokesman provided a rallying point for the unity, loyalty and solidarity of Labour MPs to Mr Cook in his hour of need.

Mr Howard exploded with synthetic rage, linking the events in Yemen with an extraordinary attack on the release of prisoners in Northern Ireland under the Good Friday agreement. He accused Mr Cook of evading the media amid a series of ill-judged personal attacks. In short,

he blew it, ensuring that Mr Cook escaped unscathed.

The Foreign Secretary and Labour whips had done a good job press-gangling troops to fill the Government's back benches. Flanked on the front bench by John Prescott, Jack Straw and Frank Dobson, Mr Cook plodded nervously through the statement setting out the discussions he has had with the Yemeni authorities and the British ambassador. This was not Mr Cook's normal, assured, arrogant performance and it was clear that his nerves were occasionally jangling.

Unfortunately, the more he

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

spoke about "relatives" and "sympathy to the families", the more MPs and journalists' minds wan-

dered back to the revelations about Mr Cook's own relatives and family.

No one, barring half-a-dozen back-benchers who actually understood the complexities of Yemen, had their minds focused on anything except Mr Cook's marital infidelities. As he spoke about travel advice and tour operators, thoughts turned to a holiday curtailed at the VIP lounge in Heathrow airport, courtesy of Alastair Campbell.

Unfortunate phrases like "bringing the full truth into the open" piqued curiosity about the full truth of claims about bottles of brandy and sleeping pills in Margaret

Cook's book. Mr Cook spoke of the need to "retain credibility among the public" and the launch of a global series of seminars and consultations to "share best practice". Such stultifying phrases guaranteed time for rumination on the manner in which the Cooks' marriage had disintegrated.

Even a liberal peppering of the Foreign Secretary's statement with the Pavlovian shock word "terrorism" barely served to remind us that he was speaking only about Yemen and the fate of British citizens.

Somehow, the Government's difficulties have mounted in spite of

the fact that it had not been called to account by Parliament until yesterday. The minute the press hand back scrutiny of ministers to the Conservative Party and Mr Howard, the Government begins to be able to get away with anything.

Even George Galloway, who has an axe to grind against the Government over Middle East policy and suspects some of the British held by Yemen to be involved in terrorism, weighed in to save the day. In an echo of Churchill in 1944, Mr Galloway summed up the mood of the House by describing Mr Howard as "not being able to see a belt without hitting below it".

Anti-terror expert appointed by Cook

A TROUBLESHOOTING anti-terror expert is to be appointed by the Government to secure the safe release of British hostages abroad, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, announced yesterday.

The new post was unveiled by Mr Cook in the Commons as he delivered a sombre statement on recent kidnappings of tourists and an oil worker in the Yemen.

The death of three British tourists, killed in a shoot-out between terrorists and local security forces, together with the abduction on Saturday of John Brooke, had proved the need for "heightened vigilance" abroad, he said.

In response to the gruesome events of the last two weeks, Mr Cook announced that the police expert would travel wherever he was needed to offer foreign governments advice on their handling of hostage-taking.

The Foreign Office security consultant, or "kidnap tsar" as he was later dubbed, would spearhead a range of Government initiatives including a series of global seminars on hostage situations.

Holiday tour operators and travel industry chiefs would be invited to the FO to dis-

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

How advice to travellers on trouble spots such as Yemen could be more widely distributed, Mr Cook said.

All British nationals in Yemen, who are believed to number 300, were being encouraged to re-register with the British embassy urgently.

Mr Cook revealed that a four-strong team of British hostage negotiators was working closely with the FBI to prepare a full account of the firefight that led to the deaths of the tourists on 29 December. Some of the hostages have claimed that the Yemeni security forces fired first on the kidnappers, but confusion still surrounds the incident.

Mr Cook said that it would be wrong to prejudge the outcome of any inquiry but it should be made clear that the "primary responsibility" for the killings rested with the armed gang who seized the hostages in the first place.

"The testimony of the survivors confirms more forcefully than any member of the House that all the hostages conducted themselves with the greatest courage and concern

for others," he said. The Foreign Secretary said that he had been given assurances by the Prime Minister of Yemen that no force would be used in an attempted release of Mr Brooke, without consultation with the FO.

"The safety of British nationals is our paramount concern," he said. "We can only succeed in securing their safety from terrorism by close international co-operation in defeating the terrorist."

He added: "Kidnapping is a crime. It is the same crime whether it is committed for financial gain or political reward. We are determined to protect the safety of our nationals and to be robust in condemning terrorism wherever it occurs."

Some MPs had expected Mr Cook to be knocked off-guard by the revelations by his former wife at the weekend that he was a serial adulterer who drank heavily and harboured a loathing of Gordon Brown and other cabinet colleagues.

However, the Foreign Secretary had already received the full support of the Prime Minister and was flanked by Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, and Home Secretary, Jack Straw, throughout his

speech. The shadow Foreign Secretary, Michael Howard, made no reference to the weekend allegations about Mr Cook's private life, but did attack the FO's handling of events in Yemen, including securing information and informing families.

To Labour shouts of "shame", Mr Howard welcomed the Government's condemnation of terrorism but added: "Do you have the faintest inkling how ill your words lie with the continuing release by the Government of those convicted of the most despicable terrorist offences without any progress being made on decommissioning?"

The reference to the Northern Ireland peace process was dismissed by Mr Cook, who said "those remarks were more damaging to him than they were damaging to us".

Earlier, a Downing Street spokesman repeated Mr Blair's enthusiastic backing.

"He is doing a superb job. He is a very effective Foreign Secretary," said the spokesman.

"He is highly regarded abroad... doing a committed, professional job. He has a full agenda this week. He's getting on with it."



Home Office Minister Paul Boateng meets Special Constables Umar Hyat and Amanda Coppack in Bradford yesterday. He was there to look at three innovative schemes to recruit members of ethnic minority groups into the Special Constabulary. Nigel Hillier

Dobson demands pay boost for nurses in lower grades

LOW-PAID nurses are likely to have their pay boosted amid the worsening winter crisis in the National Health Service, senior ministers hinted yesterday.

The Health Secretary Frank Dobson admitted that the shortages of medical staff had contributed to recent problems, and said he hoped the Pay Review Body would give "special attention to the pay of nurses in the lower grades".

Earlier, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said the review body needed to take into account "the special circumstances of nurses, particularly nurses starting out in the NHS."

"Our evidence to the review body suggests the need for pay reform to make sure that nurses have a modern, fair and

flexible employment within the health service," Mr Brown said during a speech in Edinburgh.

Speaking after a meeting with Tony Blair about the NHS winter crisis, Mr Dobson warned in a Commons statement that the icy winter could worsen present shortages.

Mr Dobson said over 2,200 schemes were under way nationally to cope with the pressures and parts of the NHS suffering particular problems had been told they could draw on a £50m contingency fund.

Stressing the Government's commitment to end cuts in training places for nurses, Mr Dobson said it was also ad-

ressing the concerns of qualified nurses who had left the NHS.

"We want to attract them back, not just with better pay but with family-friendly shift patterns and a better and safer working environment... A high priority for more small-scale investment will include replacing out-dated and unreliable equipment." He told MPs the flu outbreak seemed likely to be on the same scale as the winters of 1994 and 1996, although it could still get worse.

Ambulance journeys had almost doubled in Merseyside and Greater Manchester. In London, the New Year was the busiest on record with over 4,700 journeys compared with a daily average of 3,000. He declared: "The situation

seems to be easing but it could get worse again if icy weather were to lead to a lot of falls, particularly among the elderly."

But Ann Widdecombe, the shadow Health Secretary, said his remarks would not make the "slightest bit of difference to those now lying on trolleys in fear, in pain, waiting for treatment." Blaming the Government's "ludicrous obsession" with cutting waiting lists, she added: "Your early pledge has made worse the current crisis in the NHS because it has distorted clinical priorities away from patient priorities."

"Why don't you end your ludicrous obsession to cut waiting lists and change it to waiting list time and quality of treatment which is a far more sensible way of assessment."

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THE HOUSE



Speaker stays

BETTY BOOTHROYD denied suggestions that she planned to step down early as Speaker of the House of Commons, telling MPs: "When I do come to that decision, this House will be the first to know about it."

Dome funds

THE REMAINING £30m of sponsorship money needed for the Millennium Dome should be raised with "no difficulty at all". Lord Falconer, the new minister responsible for the project told peers.

Pension reform

FRANK FIELD, the former welfare reform minister, urged the Government to respond to "substantial criticism" from more than 1,000 people over its plans for pension reform. He said: "Shouldn't the Government respond properly and publish a Green Paper on what the criticisms were?"

Tories attack lack of fraud control

THE GOVERNMENT came under pressure to intensify its efforts to combat fraud yesterday when the Tories accused them of going soft on benefit cheats.

Iain Duncan Smith, Conservative social security spokesman, asked ministers whether the Government would provide enough funding to achieve its targets to reduce fraud, particularly in housing benefits.

Challenging Angela Eagle, the social security minister, Mr Duncan Smith pointed to a National Audit Office report published last week which found that Benefits Agency accounts have

SOCIAL SECURITY

By SARAH SCHAEFER

failed to win a clean bill of health for the tenth year running.

The agency committed errors totalling more than half a billion pounds in 1997-98 and losses through fraud amounted to more than £1.5bn.

Mr Duncan Smith asked: "Will there be enough money to meet targets and no watering down of initiatives?"

Ms Eagle said targets would be met, and "far from being watered down", the Government was "gearing up" the campaign against fraud.

London mayor poll plea

CANDIDATES FOR next year's mayor of London election should be allowed to run with a deputy on a US-style joint ticket, the Conservative Party urged yesterday.

A Conservative amendment to the Greater London Authority Bill proposes that the deputy mayor must be directly elected, like the mayor, by the capital's five million voters.

The Bill, which receives its committee stage next week, currently states that the deputy will be drawn from the 25-strong assembly after the elec-

tion in May next year. The deputy will have wide-ranging powers as he or she will chair the new Metropolitan Police Authority and may stand in for the mayor in emergencies.

But Richard Ottaway, the shadow Minister for London, said the Government's proposals would create a conflict of interest between the deputy's loyalty to the mayor and his duty to the assembly.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Aid on fuel bills

ALMOST ALL 10 million one-off government payments towards pensioners' winter fuel bills will have been made by the end of next week, the Social Security Minister Stephen Timms disclosed.

Cruise missiles

NO BRITISH cruise missiles were used in the air strikes campaign against Iraq, code-named Operation Desert Fox, during 16-19 December, the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, confirmed.

Today's agenda

In the Commons: 2.30pm questions on the environment, transport and the regions; Local Government Bill, second reading. In the Lords: 2.30pm debate on European Union report on parliamentary scrutiny; Government of Wales Act (Housing) (Amendments) Order; debate on dealing with violent crimes on aircraft; debate on alternatives to prison.

صوتنا من الداخل

Britain's new tastemaster starts work

BY RHYNS WILLIAMS

ROBIN DUVAL took over as chief censor at the British Board of Film Classification yesterday and is already having to face up to a series of thorny problems, not least of which is what to do with the proposed video release of *The Exorcist*.

To many, the post of BBFC chief censor may sound like one of the most desirable jobs in Britain but Mr Duval has the burden of following his idiosyncratic predecessor, James Ferman, while getting on with the long-term task of ensuring the board still has a task to perform in the new media age.

After 13 years with the Independent Television Commission, Mr Duval has a first-class pedigree in broadcasting regulation. As deputy head of programming, his responsibility covered not only taste and decency, but also the quality and diversity of programmes on ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5.

And now he moves on to his job as chief censor, the joys of which were summed up in a picture of a naked couple frolicking together that used to hang in the film theatre at the BBFC. Its caption read: "We'd better see it again before we ban it."

Mr Ferman, the outgoing

THE CENSOR'S IN-TRAY

The Internet

Perhaps the biggest long-term challenge facing Robin Duval at the BBFC is the one posed by new technology. His predecessor, James Ferman, doubts if even the Government will be able to stop uncensored material from pouring into Britain via satellite and the Internet.

The Exorcist

The board is currently considering whether to grant "the most frightening film ever made" a video release. Relaxation of the pornography laws

One of Mr Ferman's latter acts was to suggest that since a growing number of people lived "vicarious" sex lives, the laws on pornography should be relaxed. "We have been too strict in this country," Mr Ferman said.

The mission to explain

After 13 years at the ITC, Mr Duval is well versed in the art of explanation in the pursuit of public consent.

Sex and violence

Mr Duval is hot on violence. Like his fellow board members, he sees the clampdown on sexual violence on film and video as the board's most pressing task.

director, believes his successor is the perfect all-rounder. "Robin is a sensitive regulator steeped in the best traditions of public service," he said.

Although Mr Duval, 57, may struggle to match Mr Ferman's flair for grabbing headlines, the new director is expected to bring some administrative steel to an organisation that is making conspicuous efforts to

be more accessible and visible.

"He is ideal for what we need at the moment," said a senior member of the BBFC.

"He is a very meticulous planner. Sometimes you need inspirational thinkers which we have had for 25 years. Sometimes you need a good planner, which is where we are now."

A former colleague of Mr Duval also believes that he is a

good choice. "Robin is very aware of how the ITC approached the whole issue of transparency and accountability. He understands that if you make decisions, you need to explain them publicly. That is perhaps the major criticism of the BBFC under Ferman in the last few years - they made a ruling and the public were left wondering 'who are they?' and

'why are they doing it?' Robin firmly believes that if a decision is good enough to take, it's good enough to explain."

On a personal level, Mr Duval is described as "equable" with a wide range of cultural interests that include singing, playing the piano and attending recitals. He is also considered a strong family man - he is married and has four daughters.

Mr Duval's principal concerns are understood to centre on the portrayal of violence, particularly sexual violence, and in that respect, he reflects the board's current priorities.

"He will bring a mature and sophisticated sense of judgement on content and has a lot of knowledge of and sensitivity to public feeling," the former colleague said, adding: "I sus-

pect he will find himself exposed, particularly on the video side to a lot more cross than he was used to at the ITC."

"I think he will be uncomfortable to start with."

As the board's director, Mr Duval is steeling himself for criticism both from libertarians, who find any censorship anathema, and conservatives desperate to arrest a tide of what

they see as filth and depravation. The *Daily Mail* has already branded him a "Channel 4 liberal", while Mr Ferman urged him to buy a flak jacket.

Mr Duval is not believed to be considering any changes to the current system of film classification. However, a BBFC source says he is keen to tighten the guidelines under which the board's staff operate.



Robin Duval, who began his new job yesterday as the British Board of Film Classification's chief censor

Richard Poole

Stonehenge of sea will be left to ravages of tide

ENGLISH HERITAGE, the Government's guardian of ancient monuments, has no plans to preserve the "Stonehenge from the Sea" found in Norfolk.

The circle of oak trunks, with an upside-down tree in the centre, is likely to have been a death-temple erected 4,000 years ago. It cannot be preserved in situ on its sandbank, said Geoffrey Wainwright, Eng-

lish Heritage's chief archaeologist. If a museum wanted to lift it out and reconstruct it, it could be done, perhaps for £50,000, but English Heritage has no plans to save the monument. "For us it is a recording exercise, not a preservation exercise," Dr Wainwright said.

An English Heritage spokeswoman added: "We feel it is sufficient to record what's there before it is eroded." They were criticised by senior archaeologists who feel the site on the foreshore at Holme-next-the-Sea, near Hunstanton, is unique and the most important ancient discovery made in Britain for many years.

The president of the Coun-

cil for British Archaeology, Dr Francis Pryor, who last week said it was the most extraordinary archaeological discovery he had ever seen, said yesterday: "I have to say with a site of such importance, it is not enough just to record it. I think they ought to have another look at what their attitude to it is."

"If English Heritage say

they've got no plans to preserve it, then the question must be asked, who is responsible for preserving a site of such international importance?" The council's deputy director, Dr Mike Heyworth, said: "Preserving it would obviously be expensive but it strikes me that for a site of this importance, and it is unique, it would be worth it."

Norfolk County Council's archaeology unit thinks that within two years, the action of the sea will destroy the tree circle. It has been preserved by being buried under sand and silt, which coastal erosion has now removed.

A principal difficulty is that a decision on the future of the tree circle cannot be made until archaeologists know ex-

actly what they are dealing with - which requires a precise dating. At the moment the structure, which was probably used to expose dead bodies so the flesh would rot and speed spirits on their way to the afterlife, is thought to be early Bronze Age, from about 2,000 BC - which would make it almost a contemporary of Stonehenge.

Sections from the timbers are now being sent for radiocarbon dating to the school of archaeology and palaeo-ecology at Queen's University, Belfast. This technique will give a precise date for the tree circle to within about 20 years, but it will take three to four months, according to the head of the school, Dr Gerry McCormac.

Four Brit nominations for Robbie, but no Spice Girls

BY DAVID LISTER
Art News Editor

ROBBIE WILLIAMS has gathered a slew of nominations for the Brit Awards, putting the seal on a year's growth from former teenybop idol into fully fledged rock star.

The former Take That singer, nominated as best solo artist and for best album, also has two nominations for best single and two for best video.

Gomez, whose debut album, *Bring it on*, was recorded in the drummer's dad's garage, has been nominated for best album, best group, and best newcomer. They are competing for the best-group award with Massive Attack, Manic Street Preachers, Catatonia and Beautiful South.

The ceremony at the London Arena on 16 February will see Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart - formerly the Eurythmics - performing together in pub-



Shooting star Robbie Williams and soloist Des'ree

lic for the first time in eight years when they receive the award for outstanding contribution to British music.

Yesterday's nominations, drawn up by an academy of record retailers, band managers, the media and record companies, might disappoint pre-pubescent fans, as there is no room for the Spice Girls nor



Boyzone. Best female solo artist nominees include Billie, Des'ree, PJ Harvey, Hinda Hicks and Billie Myers.

In the international section, Madonna, Sheryl Crow and Alanis Morissette are nominated as best solo artists.

A spokesman for the Brit Awards said: "The nominations reflect that it has been very

much a pop year for British music, with nominations for Steps, Five, Billie and B*itched. But at the same time there are five nominations for Massive Attack. And, along with Gomez and Manic Street Preachers, they show a different side of British music."

The chance to play live is a vital springboard for tomorrow's musical stars. Simply Red's Mick Hucknall told a government think-tank yesterday. The prominent Labour supporter urged Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, and the Music Industry Forum to encourage live musical venues where aspiring bands can launch themselves into Britain's hugely successful £3.5bn industry.

At the forum's first meeting a year ago, Hucknall said: "I have already made my millions. This is not about me. It is about the 16-year-olds coming up."

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Faulty heaters kill one a week

A CAMPAIGN to curb the number of deaths caused by carbon monoxide poisoning in Britain's homes was launched by the Government yesterday. Each year, an average of 50 people are killed by the fumes from boilers and other heaters.

The campaign will concentrate on Wales and the Midlands where almost half of the deaths have occurred over the past 10

years. The Department of Trade and Industry says it has no idea why this is. But it warns that there is a misconception that most fatalities happen in poorly maintained rented accommodation and holiday cottages. Some 70 per cent of the victims are poisoned in homes that they own.

The department will spread the word with a road show, organised with the help of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. It will give advice on how to spot the danger signs when it visits Cardiff, Nottingham and Birmingham.

It is not only gas consumers who are at risk. Oil, coal or wood burning boilers and stoves can all produce lethal levels of carbon monoxide if they are not properly maintained, or used in badly ventilated rooms.

The department has had a safety warning printed on mil-

lions of gas bills during the winter, when almost all the deaths occur. There will also be television advertisements and leaflets placed in GP surgeries.

Kim Howells, the Consumer Affairs minister, said: "Take care if you have moved house recently or moved into rented accommodation. Find out when the boiler, other appliances and fuses were last checked and by whom. If all your family are suffering from unexplained flu-like symptoms contact your doctor; it could be carbon monoxide poisoning."

DAVID AARONOVITCH
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IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

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Kosovo back on the brink

KOSOVO STOOD on a knife edge last night, as Yugoslavia threatened force to free Serbian soldiers held prisoner by ethnic Albanian guerrillas, and unknown assassins shot dead a close aide of the province's moderate Albanian leader.

Urged by both Nato and Russia as well as the Pope, and threatened with imminent military reprisal from President Slobodan Milosevic, the insurgents yesterday seemed on the brink of releasing some at least of the eight hostages they captured in northern Kosovo four days ago.

"We will release some of them, probably this evening or on Tuesday," Bardyl Mahmuti, the European political representative of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), said in Geneva yesterday. But KLA commanders said the hostages would only be freed if the Serbian authorities themselves released nine Albanian prisoners.

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

But there was no guarantee Belgrade would accept such a trade-off - nor that a partial release would be sufficient to avert a frontal attack by the Yugoslav tanks stationed close to the town of Stari Trg in northern Kosovo, where the two men are being held. This in turn would probably sweep away the final vestiges of the ceasefire agreed last October.

Time was running out, a senior European official warned after meeting Mr Milosevic in Belgrade yesterday. Knut Vollebæk, chairman of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), claimed he had persuaded the Yugoslav President to stay his hand a little longer. But "there must be an immediate release of the prisoners if a major conflict is to be avoided."

OSCE negotiators were yesterday desperately trying to

broker a deal over the soldiers. Last night they too seemed optimistic an agreement was close, including an exchange of prisoners. But in a sign its patience has almost run out, Belgrade has sent the army chief of staff, General Dragoljub Ojdanic to Pristina, to take charge of any operations in person.

Tensions in the Kosovan capital, already high ahead of a planned demonstration by the province's ever more frightened Serb minority, were further fuelled last night by the murder of a close aide to Ibrahim Rugova, the Kosovo Albanians' political leader.

According to international officials, Enver Maloku, the head of the pro-Rugova Kosovo Information Centre, was shot outside his home and died later in hospital. The assassination may have been carried out by the KLA, opposed to Rugova's advocacy of a peaceful solution to the crisis.



A Congolese woman lying by her daughter in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, yesterday. Nearly 5,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo have fled the town of Zongo across the Ubangi river to Bangui as rebels advance. *Nicolas Cotton/AFIP*

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Peacekeepers claim victory in Freetown

DIPLOMATS WERE last night attempting to end fighting in Sierra Leone after West African peacekeepers, aided by reinforcements, said they had driven rebels from State House and were chasing them out of private residences in the capital, Freetown.

Six days into the latest rebel challenge to the elected government of the diamond-rich West African country, diplomats from across the region joined in efforts to end the fighting.

On the ground, random shooting since last Wednesday has claimed an untold number of lives, including that of an Associated Press television producer, Myles Tierney, 34. A Canadian colleague, Ian Stewart, 32, was seriously wounded.

Deprived of electricity and water and faced with dwindling stocks of food, residents of Freetown were reportedly still keeping off the streets yesterday.

Last night, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) deplored the "incessant" violence in Freetown and said more than 180 people had sought refuge at the ICRC compound in the capital. It said residents were trapped in their

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH
Africa Correspondent

homes without food and were unable "even to bury the dead".

"The rebels are now being pushed out of Freetown," said a statement from the 16-nation Economic Community of West African states (Ecomog) which funds Ecomog, the Nigerian-commanded regional intervention force.

Ecomog troops, supporting Sierra Leone's elected president, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, have been battling rebels for control of Freetown's centre. "Ecomog has successfully taken control of State House. Efforts are being made to flush the rebels out of private residences in Freetown where some of them are still taking refuge," the statement added.

Ecomog said its secretary-general, Lansana Kouyate, would travel to Lome, capital of Togo, today for regional talks. The Togolese and Ivory Coast foreign ministers have already met President Kabbah and the rebels' jailed leader, Foday Sankoh. The commander of the rebel forces, Sam Bockarie, has rejected a ceasefire unless Mr Sankoh is released.



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Former Soviet boss triumphs in 'grossly unfair' election

UNRUFFLED BY cries of foul from international institutions, Nursultan Nazarbayev yesterday easily secured another seven years as president of the vast mineral-rich republic of Kazakhstan in an election that was badly flawed, even by the dismal standards of post-Soviet republics.

The wily former Soviet party boss, who has headed Kazakhstan for almost a decade,

By PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

claimed about 80 per cent of the vote in a poll which the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) refused to recognise, saying it fell far beneath the standards to which its member nations are committed.

Among the chief complaints was the decision by a Kazakh

court to bar from the contest the President's only realistic rival, the former prime minister, Akezhan Kazhegeldin. Mr Kazhegeldin was so outraged by the ban, and by earlier efforts to harass him out of the race, that he hired a top US-based publicity firm to draw the world's attention to his plight.

The subsequent publicity may explain the OSCE's tough

stance, which contrasts with its generally softer line over other suspect elections in the former Soviet Union. Human Rights Watch also called Kazakhstan's election "grossly unfair", and there were unhappy rumblings from Washington.

The latter should be taken with a pinch of salt. American and other Western oil and gas companies - including British Gas - have heavy investments

in Kazakhstan. It is privately acknowledged within the oil business that the petrochemical giants care far more about having strong leaders in power, with whom they have already forged a relationship, than democracy.

Mr Nazarbayev, 58, who used to be the head of the Soviet-era Kazakh Communist Party, certainly qualifies as strong. Although his methods are not as

despotic as some of those who rose to power in the chaotic aftermath of the Soviet collapse - for example, Belarus's Alexander Lukashenko - he has ensured that there is no criticism in the media and discreetly maintains tight control of the country, aided by his security services.

There have also been some signs that he is building a dynasty, with the appointment of

family members in senior jobs. Perhaps his most disputed move, though, was his baffling decision to move Kazakhstan's capital from Almaty to Astana, on a mosquito-plagued windswept steppe in the north, where temperatures reach 40C in the summer and minus 40C in winter. It cost at least \$500m which, given that three-quarters of Kazakhstan's 13.7 million population live below the

poverty line, was widely seen as money ill-spent.

The President's own comments on his victory with 80 per cent of the vote appeared to acknowledge the election's failings. "You remember the [Soviet] times when turnout was 99.9 per cent and the vote in favour 99.9 per cent?" he said. "Well, you could say that we have allowed democracy to progress by 20 per cent."

Risk of renewed US-Iraq conflict grows

THE US has told Iraq it risks further military action if it withdraws recognition of Kuwait. As tension escalates in the Gulf, there are signs Washington and Baghdad are moving towards open conflict, on a larger scale than December's aerial campaign. There were more attacks by US aircraft on Iraqi missile sites yesterday, and the US is reported to be drawing up plans for a larger campaign of air strikes.

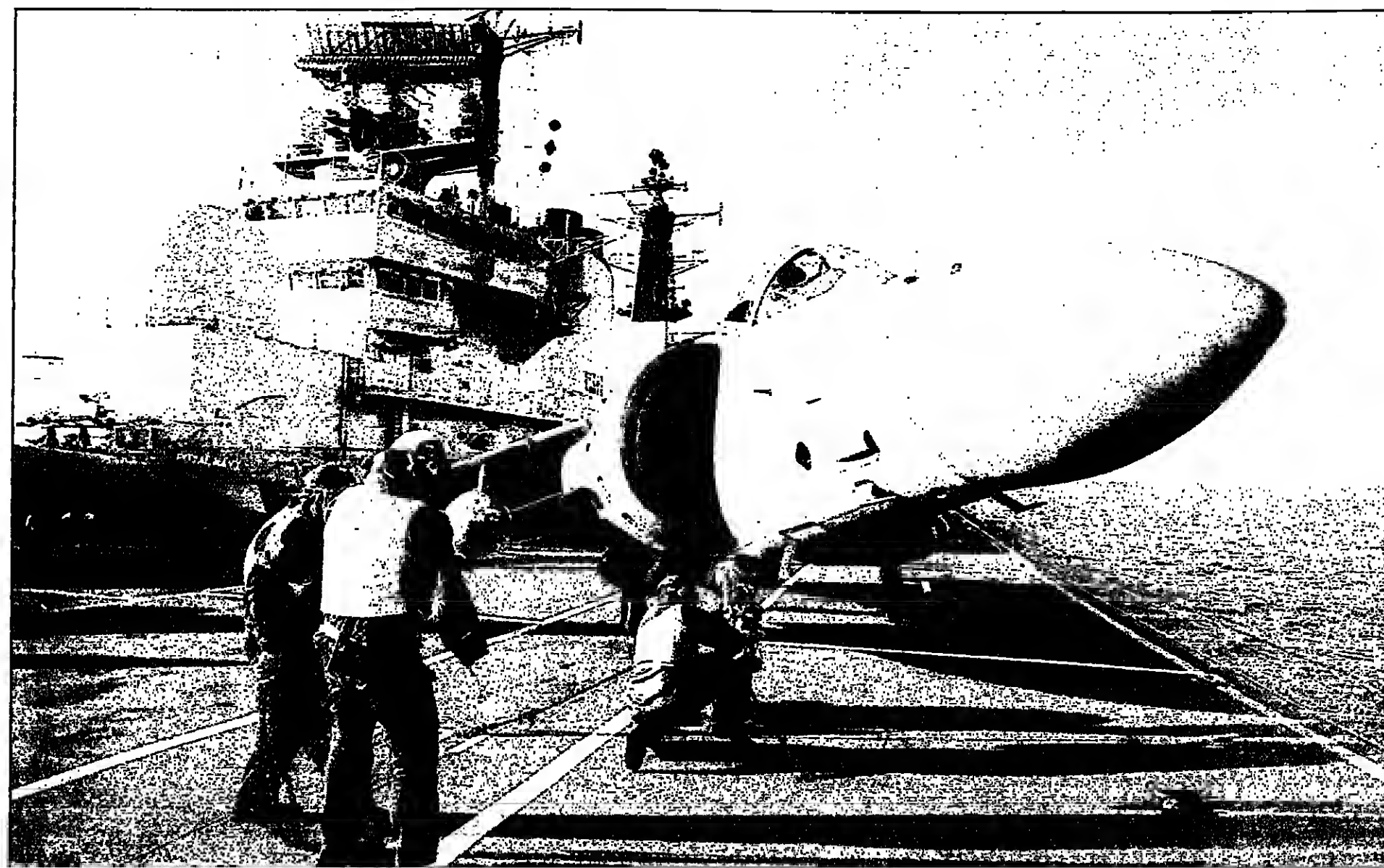
Iraq's parliament threatened to withdraw recognition of the border with Kuwait at the weekend but backed away and called for further discussions of all UN resolutions declared after the 1991 Gulf war. "That would be a violation of existing Security Council resolutions, and a flagrant violation," said the US Defense Secretary, William Cohen. "What we have

By ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

said is that to the extent that he [Saddam Hussein] poses a threat or moves against Kuwait or Saudi Arabia or the Kurds in the north that we are prepared to respond."

The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, said: "This will pose a major challenge for the Security Council and the United Nations."

Kuwait placed its small armed forces on combat alert. The Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, Sheikh Salem Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah, of the ruling royal family, headed a defence council meeting on Sunday. "We have some units always on alert since the 1991 Gulf war and the latest measure is to further boost their readiness and level



Deck crew work on a Sea Harrier as 800 Squadron embarked aboard HMS Invincible, which left Portsmouth last week to support British forces in the Gulf. Reuters

of alert," he said. Iraq has condemned Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt for facilitating last month's US and British attacks and called for their people to rise against their governments. Saudi Arabia was infuriated by the call. "The truth is the Iraqi people are the ones who de-

serve and need to revolt," said the official Saudi news agency. It is possible the US may deploy more forces to defend Kuwait. There was a meeting of President Bill Clinton's national security team at Camp David on Saturday, indicating that preparations for further

military action may be under way. The US and Britain said after Operation Desert Fox last year that any move by Iraq against its neighbours or its own people would trigger a response. General Anthony Zinni, the head of the US Central Command, said last week that

any Iraqi assault on Shias in southern Iraq could be regarded as a threat to Kuwait, opening the door for further intervention in Iraq.

US aircraft attacked two Iraqi missile sites in the northern no-fly zone yesterday after they were targeted by radar

sites near Mosul. It is just the latest in a series of such incidents, as Iraq challenges the legitimacy of the post-Gulf war settlement and the presence of allied aircraft in its skies. There have also been further intrusions by Iraqi aircraft into the no-fly zones, US officials said.

If there is to be more military action, the likely window is after the end of Ramadan next week, by which time Mr Cohen will have returned from a trip to Asia, and the President is likely to be coming to the end of his impeachment trial in the US Senate.

White House team vow to fight every charge

WHITE HOUSE lawyers cleared the way yesterday for the start of the Senate impeachment trial on Thursday, making known that they would contest the charges against President Bill Clinton but would not file to have them quashed at the outset. They dispatched a 13-page legal brief to the Senate to that effect at midday yesterday, as the deadline for a response to last week's formal Senate summons expired.

Making clear that the White House was giving no quarter, the brief said that Mr Clinton "denies each and every material allegation", did not perjure himself in his grand jury testimony about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, and did not seek to obstruct justice. "The charges in the two Articles of Impeachment," it said, "do not permit the conviction and removal from office of a duly elected President."

It went on: "The articles do not rise to the level of 'high

By MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

crimes and misdemeanours' as contemplated by the Founding Fathers and they do not satisfy the rigorous constitutional standard applied throughout our nation's history. Accordingly, the Articles of Impeachment should be dismissed."

While the denials in the brief were strongly worded, the decision by the White House not to demand an immediate vote on dismissing the case was seen as a conciliatory move. It was judged to be in line with the statement of White House special counsel, Gregory Craig, on Friday that the White House regarded the Senate procedures with "respect" and appreciated the bipartisan nature (a 100 to 0 vote) of the agreement on trial procedures.

Over the past two weeks, the President's legal team has made efforts to do nothing that would alienate the Senate,



Hillary Clinton holds a copy of a book on White House history during the launch of a silver dollar featuring a former first lady, Dolly Madison. Reuters

which acts as jury in the impeachment trial. While Mr Clinton's lawyers are not demanding a vote to dismiss the charges before the trial opens, they are expected to submit a motion for dismissal sometime thereafter - probably after the opening statements. It is at that time also that the prosecution is likely to submit

a separate motion asking for witnesses to be summoned: an issue which divides the Senate along party lines. Either decision would require a simple majority, 51 votes, to pass. The balance of the Senate, where the Democrats have 45 seats out of 100, makes it unlikely that a vote to dismiss the case would succeed.

Baptist leader's double life

WHEN DEBORAH LYONS was arrested and charged 18 months ago with setting fire to a luxury house in the Florida resort of St Petersburg, the case was treated as an inexplicably destructive act by a woman of hitherto good repute. Prayers were said for her in black churches throughout the United States, and sympathy went out to her husband, the Rev Henry Lyons, one of the most prominent black churchmen in the country.

Within months, however, an investigation turned up a money trail leading back to Mr Lyons, who was - and still is - president of the National Baptist Convention, the largest organisation of black churches in the US.

By MARY DEJEVSKY

Yesterday, Mr Lyons, 56, went on trial, charged with multiple counts of fraud amounting for millions of dollars. It transpired that while her husband was away from home Deborah Lyons, who was living in modest circumstances as befitted the wife of a churchman, had found the deeds to the St Petersburg house in Mr Lyons' briefcase.

Not only did it show that he owned the \$700,000 (£433,000) house, but that he owned it jointly with another woman, Bernice Edwards, the public relations director of the National Baptist Convention. As Mrs Lyons admitted in court last year, she broke into

the house, threw her husband's suits around and lit a series of fires. She was sentenced to five years' probation for arson.

At the time, Mrs Lyons blamed her frenzy on a drink problem, and Mr Lyons said that his relationship with Ms Edwards was a purely business arrangement. But within two months, police found that not only had Mr Lyons kept a mistress, but they had maintained an extravagant lifestyle funded by money that had been donated to the church.

He was confirmed to have an illegitimate child and reports abounded of involvements with other women and lavish gifts. Among the specific charges against Mr Lyons is that he misappropriated more than

\$200,000 donated by the Jewish organisation B'nai B'rith, which had been earmarked for the rebuilding black churches that had been burnt down.

According to prosecutors, Mr Lyons used the money to buy the St Petersburg house, a Mercedes car and jewellery. Bernice Edwards is charged jointly with him and had an early plea for a separate trial turned down.

Until his arrest last February, Mr Lyons had denied any criminal intent, but admitted wrongdoing. A year ago, he admitted at a televised news conference: "I have sinned. I am a preacher who has made serious errors in judgement." If convicted, he faces up to 30 years in prison.

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Turks refuse to pay for lost lands of Greek Cypriots

HOW CAN Titina Loizidou obtain the money which the European Court of Human Rights has told Turkey to pay her? In theory, at least, Turkey could be expelled from the Council of Europe – the one European body to which it belongs – for defying the court's ruling that it must pay £370,000 (plus £24,500 damages) for Mrs Loizidou's loss of access to her property in Turkish-controlled northern Cyprus.

Mrs Loizidou is a Greek Cypriot who grew up in Kyrenia – which, since Turkey's 1974 invasion of the island, has been the Turkish Cypriot port of Gironne – and she has been campaigning since 1990 to return to her plot of olive and

BY ROBERT FISK
in Nicosia

carob trees above the sea. She speaks so quietly in her Nicosia lawyer's office that the distant traffic almost drowns her words, but there is no doubting her determination. Four times she joined women's demonstrations to "walk" back to Kyrenia, only to be stopped by Turkish troops and UN soldiers. Her lawyer, Achilleas Demetriades, is already asking himself how to force the Turks to pay up.

"We cannot claim Turkish property like an embassy or an ambassador's car because that is covered by diplomatic immunity," he says. "But perhaps

we will have to look at other property owned by the Turkish state – an aircraft, for instance." Mr Demetriades is smiling. One can almost see a writ being slapped on the hull of a Turkish Airlines plane at Heathrow or Brussels or Amsterdam. "I'm not saying exactly what we will do – but we are considering all possibilities," he adds.

The authorities in Ankara were given until 28 October to come up with the money but after complaining that the case was political they have simply ignored the court's decision. In the words of one of the dissenting judges – needless to say, it was the Turkish representative, Judge Golcuklu – Mrs

Loizidou's claim "is likely to become the prototype for a whole series of similar cases which will in all probability be resolved by political bodies." In other words, if the Turks cough up £394,500 for her, they'll be faced with millions of pounds worth of further claims from dispossessed Greek Cypriots.

"That's the trick the Turks are playing," Mr Demetriades says. "The moment you say the case is a big one, you fall into the trap that you are saying it's political. Obviously there is a political dimension to this case. But if Turkey doesn't want to pay, this is obviously an insult to the European Court system." Ironically, the last time the 40-nation council applied



Barred: Titina Loizidou

sanctions against a member which defied its ruling was in 1970 – against Greece and its military junta. Which may be why the Turkish Embassy in London now goes so far as to

insist that Turkey has no jurisdiction on Cyprus, a view that might surprise the thousands of Turkish troops based in the north of the island, not to mention the tens of thousands of Turkish settlers now living there.

Mrs Loizidou is certainly a fluent proponent of her own case, speaking warmly of her former Turkish Cypriot neighbours and accepting that – if she was allowed to return to Kyrenia – she would be living in a changed land. "All I want to do is go back to my property and use it peacefully. I want to build a home there – it was the intention of my grandfather that we should all have houses on that land. And I would go back if I was allowed – even though

I know it would not be the same. The decision of the court is not giving back what I applied for, which is my life in Kyrenia. I didn't just lose my property but also my way of life, being with my family there and my neighbours, the quality of life I had there."

Like those Palestinians who often remember a mythical paradise of Jewish-Arab trust in mandate Palestine, Greek Cypriots sometimes fantasise about the supposed closeness of Greek-Turkish relations before the 1974 Turkish invasion. When Mrs Loizidou last had access to pre-invasion Kyrenia, she had to travel there in convoy because of the animosity which existed between Greek

Cypriots and the enclaved Turkish citizens of the island. Besides, she has lived in Nicosia for almost a quarter of a century with her husband Andreas; her two children, Vassos and Helen, are studying in Britain.

So would Titina Loizidou really go back to a town that is no longer Greek? Part of her sister's house is now lived in by a Turkish Cypriot family driven from southern Cyprus by Greek Cypriots in 1974. "But neighbours who talked to a German visitor remembered my family," Mrs Loizidou says. "They remembered my grandfather because he had delivered their children. They sent their regards to my father and me. These bonds still exist."

Murder-a-day Milan wants extra police

AS EXTRAVAGANTLY dressed male models stalk the catwalk at this week's men's fashion shows in Milan, many residents of the north Italian city fear it is becoming a capital of crime rather than style.

Nine murders in the first nine days of this year as well as several gun battles and armed robberies have left the Milanese feeling defenceless and angry.

The Prime Minister, Massimo D'Alema, and the Interior Minister, Rosa Russo Jervolino, are holding an emergency meeting in Milan with police, the mayor and regional chiefs today. Diego Masi, of the Interior Ministry, insisted yesterday that Milan would not become "like Chicago in the 1930s". The conservative Forza Italia party led by the former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi has called for the army to intervene, while newspapers say the government is planning to send in an extra 800 police and security officers.

Residents and businessmen are accusing the authorities of ignoring the decline in law and order, much of which they blame on illegal immigrants. Much of the bloodshed has involved foreign criminal gangs.

However, the violence is not limited to poorer outer suburbs and has struck the very heart of Milan.

One of the killings that has most struck public opinion this year is that of 34-year-old

BY FRANCES KENNEDY
in Rome

Ottavio Capalbo, who ran a family bar in a north-eastern suburb.

Two masked gunmen, speaking with southern Italian accents, pushed through the customers playing their weekly lottery numbers and demanded the takings. When Mr Capalbo tried to resist he was shot in the face and died instantly. His uncle, Gaetano, was wounded in the stomach and is in a grave condition.

Twelve hours later, a Uruguayan was killed by two compatriots at his Milan home and, in the interim, party-goers in the buzzing Brera district dodged bullets as seven Croats, most of them with criminal records, began shooting in a dispute over drug profits.

Among the other victims of the new year bloodshed were a bar owner and a newsagent killed in separate incidents in the early morning.

Three of the victims were illegal immigrants, a Brazilian, a Sri Lankan and an Albanian.

Exasperated residents of the areas where pushers, prostitutes and pimps operate are ready to take the law into their own hands. Some have formed neighbourhood committees and have taken to filming the crime that takes place on their doorsteps.

In the first six months of 1998, there was a 4.3 per cent rise in

murders and a 22.6 per cent increase in armed robberies.

On Friday, shop owners in one central street closed up and took part in a torchlight parade. A large protest rally has been called for tomorrow. "We feel unprotected and alone," said a man laying a flower outside Ottavio Capalbo's bar, where there were other bouquets and angry messages to the government. "The police are simply not present and even by day you are not safe. It's not a question of racism but the criminals here are foreigners. If they're arrested, they're back on the street the next day," said an elderly woman.

Magistrates have, for several years, warned of the increasing grip on the city of foreign criminal gangs – usually of Slav and North African origin. Overseas gangs have either pushed out – or cut deals with – the local mafia for the lucrative trade in arms, drugs and prostitution. Immigrants' rights groups have voiced their fears that the failure to combat crime will lead to xenophobia and penalise foreigners living and working in Milan legally.

On Saturday, the chief judge of Italy's highest court, Antonio La Torre, denounced an increase in crime nationwide.

He also admitted that the justice system was not working, adding that illegal immigration was so "massive and obvious that it represented a continuous invasion".



The body of Santa Pnglisi, shot while praying at the tomb of her husband, a mafia boss. Sicily continues to be plagued by mafia violence Reuters

Mafia suspects held for mass killing

ITALIAN POLICE have arrested 17 suspected members of a mafia clan that it believes was behind a mass gangland killing in Sicily.

Five men were shot dead in less than a minute on 2 January at a bar in a service station outside the provincial town of Vittoria, near Ragusa. Two of those killed were bystanders who had stopped for coffee and found themselves near the targets of the operation – three local bosses of the Mafia.

The killings provoked widespread shock and anger. The Prime Minister, Massimo D'Alema, called an emergency

BY FRANCES KENNEDY

law-and-order summit and the government announced plans to put more resources into Sicily.

Those arrested were mainly members of the Piscopo and Dominante clans, who are fighting for control of the drugs trade and extortion in Vittoria. They included two farmers named Alessandro Piscopo, cousins aged 37 and 39, who are believed to have ordered the revenge attack, and the brother of one of the bosses who was killed.

Investigators in Catania say the killings were the result of

a split within the Dominante clan, confirmed by a former local mafia member turned state witness.

"After the slaying we received reports and complaints from local businessmen," one of the prosecutors said.

"It's an important sign because the criminal presence in Vittoria is very heavy and can only be broken if people find the courage to speak out."

The president of the parliamentary Anti-Mafia Commission, Ottaviano Del Turco, praised police and magistrates for their swift action.



Police arresting Alessandro Piscopo in Sicily yesterday

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If you want to make friends, get a flamingo-coloured cat

STREET LIFE
SAMOTECHNY LANE

THE SUREST way to make friends in Russia – better even than being a ready drinking partner – is to keep a pet. The Russians are as daff as the English when it comes to animals, perhaps more so if you consider the number of be-medalled pedigree hounds kept in cramped apartments where there is barely room to swing a cat. So, whether you own a dog, a cat or a canary, you are quickly accepted as a member of the community.

My neighbours in Samotechny Lane know me as Yelena, or more often just Lena, but the entire Novoslobodsky district knows me as the "English cat woman". Likewise, I recognise members of the dog-walking fraternity as the "Alderman man" or the "Airedale terrier hiker" and know the cat owners as the "Siamese woman", the "tortoiseshell fellow" and so on.

It all started when I lost Minky. Once, he had been a sweet flamingo-coloured kitten but after he became a castrato in the opera of the cats and ate the food the advertisements said he would have bought himself, he turned into a finicky and bloated beast. Still, I was upset when he went missing and put up signs offering a small reward to anyone who found him.

The response was astonishing and not, I am sure, because of the reward. Every five minutes, the telephone would ring. "We have found a ginger cat. Is it him?" I would go and look and of course, it was not

me one of them, a mushroom-coloured thing that turned out to be riddled with fleas, so I politely returned him.

I was of a mind to try to live without a cat. But then one night, I saw with absolute clarity – I was not half asleep or drunk – a rat emerge from the hole under the bath and scuttle across the kitchen floor. The neighbours, naturally, had plenty of advice.

Lyuba upstairs said I should call in the rat man, who would poison her "using coloured grains like Indian rice". Her husband said this was a terrible idea as the rat would just crawl away to die somewhere and stink for months under the floorboards.

"Broken glass is the only answer," said Tanya at number 13. "Just spread broken glass around your flat, and the rat will go away because she will not want to cut her little feet."

Fortunately, before it came to that, a new cat walked into my life, black as the ace of spades and promising to be lucky. I called him Blackjack. He did quite an efficient job, patrolling the passage between bathroom and kitchen.

Since it looked as if he was going to become a permanent fixture, I decided last week to call in the vet to give him a health check. An acquaintance had given me the telephone number of Raisa Yevgenyevna. "She does not remember names but just tell her you are a friend of the blue Persian."

Raisa Yevgenyevna arrived, neatly dressed like Miss Marple. She examined Blackjack, pronounced him in good condition and advised me not to spoil him with too much tinned meat. As I paid her the 300-ruble (25) fee, I realised that she was glad of the business. "Since the economic crisis, pet owners cannot afford to pay me for a visit. Instead, they ring up for a bit of free advice. I cannot refuse. In many cases, I have been looking after their animals for years. So if you know of any rich Russians or foreigners with pets..."

Indeed, if anybody asks, I will tell them to say they got the contact from the black cat in Samotechny Lane.

HELEN WOMACK

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BUSINESS

BAT soars as City toasts £13bn Rothmans merger

BRIEFING

US Treasury may buy back debt

THE US Treasury said yesterday that it was considering retiring some government debt with the proceeds of its rising budget surplus. A spokesman underlined that the idea was "still very much in an exploratory stage," but preparatory work was under way, he said.

The White House has said that the first priority is to shore up the country's social security system. Buybacks could use reverse auctions or purchases on the open market, he said. The US ran a dollars \$70bn surplus for last year, and is heading for closer to \$80bn this year.

Cornish tin mine back in action

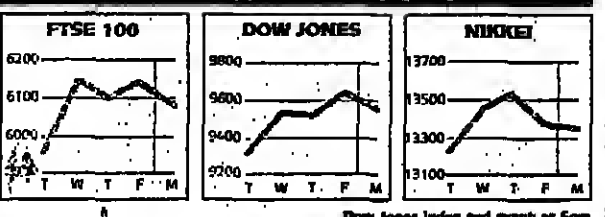


SOUTH CROFTY, the west Cornwall tin mine (pictured) which closed last summer with the loss of 300 jobs, reopened yesterday amid champagne celebrations. The new owner of the 2,600 foot deep pit, Welsh mining entrepreneur Wilf Hughes, said he had received job applications from as far afield as Brazil and South Africa.

Ford extends production cuts

FORD IS to extend production cutbacks at its Dagenham factory because of continued slowdown in export sales. Dagenham, which produces the Fiesta and exports about 45 per cent of output, is to remain on a four-day week until at least the end of next month. Meanwhile, Fiat confirmed it was in merger talks with two or three other car makers including Volvo.

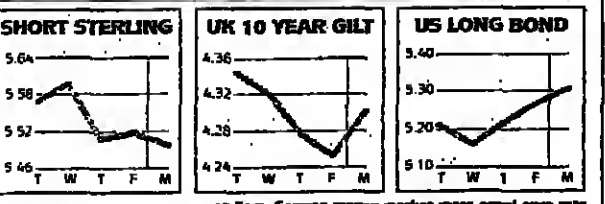
STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

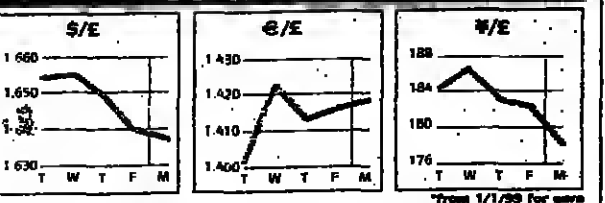
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6085.00	-62.30	-1.01	6195.60	4599.20	2.65
FTSE 250	4982.00	-5.60	-0.11	5970.90	4247.60	3.33
FTSE 350	2864.30	-24.40	-0.85	2969.10	2210.40	2.72
FTSE All Share	2762.73	-21.95	-0.79	2866.52	2163.53	2.80
FTSE SmallCap	2141.50	-7.70	-0.36	2783.80	1834.40	3.76
FTSE Prevedging	1181.30	3.50	0.30	1517.10	1046.20	4.24
FTSE AIM	815.30	8.40	1.04	1146.90	761.30	1.23
FTSE Eurotop 100	2862.92	-46.10	-1.59	3079.27	2018.15	89.72
FTSE Europe 300	1235.14	-18.18	-1.45	1332.07	880.63	1.01
Dow Jones	9541.29	-59.47	-0.62	9647.96	7400.30	1.58
Nikkei	13868.60	-23.33	-0.17	14523.95	12187.00	1.09
Hong Kong	10634.27	-88.43	-0.83	11926.16	6544.79	3.36
Dax	5270.60	-122.24	-2.27	6217.83	3833.71	1.63
S&P 500	1261.94	-13.02	-1.02	1278.05	912.83	1.25
Nasdaq	2356.32	-11.91	-0.51	2369.55	1357.09	0.30
Toronto 300	6851.10	-17.85	-0.26	7837.70	5370.90	1.59
Brazil Bovespa	6329.42	-445.09	-6.56	12339.14	4575.69	9.37
Belgium Bel20	3540.30	-33.66	-0.94	3713.21	2357.78	1.69
Australian All Ordinaries	545.27	-13.50	-2.43	566.98	366.98	1.77
London CAC 40	4201.90	-43.52	-1.03	4404.94	2899.73	1.92
Asian MIB30	36733.00	-937.00	-2.49	39170.00	24175.00	1.10
Madrid Iboex 35	10246.60	-163.70	-1.57	10989.80	6869.30	1.80
Taipei TSEI	5278.98	-1.12	-0.02	5581.70	3732.57	1.37
Korea KOSPI	640.95	-14.62	-2.33	642.94	277.37	0.96
Australia ASX	2849.40	-6.90	-0.24	2902.90	2306.70	3.12

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	5.94	5.62	5.46	5.21	4.90	4.30	3.33	2.63	1.63
US	5.05	4.61	4.15	3.54	3.21	2.81	2.31	1.81	1.31
Japan	0.54	0.20	0.16	0.16	1.82	0.04	2.69	0.19	0.19
Germany	3.19	2.40	2.13	1.76	1.79	1.23	4.71	0.99	0.99

CURRENCIES



Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
US Dollar	1.6374	-0.39%	1.6224	1.6107	-0.15%	0.6164	1.1944	-0.03%	1.1892
Euro	1.4190	-0.19%	1.4078	1.3940	-0.09%	1.3263	1.2840	-0.04%	1.2840
Yen	178.06	-44.88	215.28	164.40	3.00	159.51	Jan		
Index	99.20	+0.00	109.50	\$ Index	103.70	+0.00	108.90		

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
rent (US)	12.00	0.39	14.85	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Mar	
oil (US)	293.20	1.85	...	RPI	164.40	3.00	159.51	Jan	
iver (S)	5.26	0.05	5.74	Base Rates	6.00	7.25

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4975	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.57
Austria (schillings)	18.88	Netherlands (guilder)	3.0262
Belgium (francs)	55.51	New Zealand (\$)	2.9150
Canada (\$)	2.4208	Norway (krone)	11.81
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7960	Portugal (escudos)	274.23
Denmark (krone)	10.28	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9770
Finland (markka)	8.1944	Singapore (\$)	2.6261
France (francs)	9.0219	Spain (pesetas)	228.51
Germany (marks)	2.6994	South Africa (rands)	9.1995
Greece (drachma)	446.04	Sweden (krone)	12.64
Hong Kong (\$)	12.33	Switzerland (francs)	2.2266
Ireland (pounds)	1.0805	Thailand (bahts)	54.66
India (rupees)	62.70	Turkey (liras)	503565
Israel (shekels)	6.1846	USA (\$)	1.6028
Italy (lira)	2674		
Japan (yen)	177.53		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9788		
Malta (lira)	0.6033		

SHARES IN British American

Tobacco soared by more than 15 per cent yesterday as the stock market welcomed the group's surprise £13bn merger with Rothmans International.

The shares rose by 84p to 625p while shares in Imperial Tobacco also rose as analysts predicted a further round of consolidation in the industry.

Analysts praised the logic of the deal, which brings together the second and fourth largest tobacco companies in the world. The combined group, which will be known as BAT, will have a global market share of 16 per cent, within touching distance of

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

arch rival Philip Morris, which produces the Marlboro brand.

The deal assembles a powerful portfolio of cigarette brands. BAT makes State Express 555, Lucky Strike, Kent and Players as well as Benson & Hedges outside the UK. Rothmans makes Dunhill, Peter Stuyvesant and Winfield, as well as the Rothmans brand.

BAT says the two companies are a good geographic and cultural fit with Rothmans enlarging BAT's exposure to the higher margin premium cigarette sector.

"It has always been an element of our strategy to be number one. This deal takes us close with leading positions in many markets," said Ralph Edmondson, BAT's director.

The City sees costs savings as the key benefit of the deal. BAT anticipates £350m of annual savings at a one-off cost of £400m. This will lead to job losses although the group declined to specify how many or where they will fall.

In the UK Rothmans employs around 1200 people in the North-east split evenly between Darlington and Tony Blair's constituency of Spennymore. BAT

employs more than 1000 in Southampton and about 50 in Corby, Northamptonshire.

Jonathan Fell, a tobacco analyst at Merrill Lynch, said: "It gives BAT critical mass in a number of markets as well as offering scope for cost savings. It seems like an obvious deal."

Justin Urquhart-Stewart of Barclays Stockbrokers added: "There is very little duplication. These are cash-cow businesses and if you cut out costs, particularly in their growth areas, particularly in the third world, it's a wholly logical move."

The deal is being effected via the issue to Rothmans share-

holders of 604.3m ordinary BAT shares and 241.7m preference shares, which can be redeemed for a premium at a later date.

Rothmans is owned by the Richmond and Rembrandt luxury goods companies, which are controlled by the South African Rupert family. They will emerge with 35 per cent of the enlarged BAT group although there is a standstill agreement under which they will only have 25 per cent of the voting rights.

The remaining 10 per cent will be held through non-voting preference shares. Richmond includes the luxury brands Cartier, Mont-Blanc and Dunhill, which are held through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Vendome.

Johann Rupert, chief executive of Richmond and Martin Broughton, BAT's chief executive, began discussions in November. Mr Broughton said the deal had been made possible by BAT's de-merger of its financial services interests to Allied Zurich last year. Mr Rupert welcomed the deal saying "it is better to be a re-structuree than a re-structuree".

Mr Broughton will be chairman of the enlarged group with Rothmans' chief executive Bill Ryan becoming deputy managing director.



Johann Rupert, the South African chief executive of Richmond, lighting a cigarette outside the British American Tobacco headquarters yesterday after the two companies announced a merger

Luxury goods dynasty with humble origins

THE SOUTH African Rupert family, whose Richmond and Rembrandt companies will control a 35 per cent stake in BAT, is best known for its prestigious luxury goods empire.

Richmont, which took full control of the Vendome luxury goods company last year, is one of the world's leading jewellery and fashion groups with a stellar list of brands names including Alfred Dunhill, Cartier, Chloé, and Montblanc.

But the family's origins are more humble. The dynasty was started in 1941 by Anton Rupert, the father of current chief executive Johann.

He started out with a dry-cleaning business in South Africa before taking out a loan to start a tobacco company. Its main brand was Rembrandt, which was later chosen as the name for one of the family's controlling companies.

The move into tobacco proved astute. The business prospered and in 1955 the young entrepreneur made his first foray overseas buying Rothmans, followed by Peter Stuyvesant.

BY NIGEL COPE

His 48-year-old son Johann did not always work in the business. He started out as a merchant banker with Chase Manhattan and Lazard Freres in New York in the 1970s before returning to South Africa to found Rand Merchant Bank.

A keen cricketer and rugby player in his younger days, Johann once said he was not too worried about winning but hated to lose. It is a philosophy that appears not to have been greatly challenged.

In 1988 Johann masterminded the separation of Rembrandt's international interests into the Richmond companies in Switzerland and Luxembourg.

He took Rothmans International private three years ago and merged it with Rembrandt's southern African tobacco interests.

Vendome was created in 1993 through the restructuring of Rothmans and Dunhill.

Last year Richmond bought out the minority shareholders in Vendome in a £1bn deal.

UK claws back EDF takeover

THE £1.9bn takeover of London Electricity by the state-owned group Electricité de France ran into trouble yesterday after the Government asked Brussels to hand back responsibility for investigating the deal to the UK competition authorities.

Based on past cases where the European Commission has agreed to similar requests, there is a strong possibility of the EDF deal being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC).

The Department of Trade and Industry said it had asked for authority to be handed back on the grounds that the takeover last December raised public interest concerns and could distort competition in the UK electricity market. The takeover amounts to vertical integration since EDF already supplies 7 per cent of the UK electricity market through the cross-Channel interconnector.

This is the fourth time UK authorities have asked Brussels to cede authority to London, citing article nine of the EC Merger Regulation. This states that national competition authorities

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

can investigate a merger if it threatens to strengthen a dominant position or impede competition in a distinct market.

In two of the three previous cases - GEIEE's bid for Lloyds Chemists and the Tarmac-Steelkey merger - the deals were subsequently sent to the MMC.

The Government has also invoked the less-often used article 21 of the merger regulations, which is normally only used to claim back responsibility for vetting mergers that involve national security, control of the media and the operation of financial institutions.

The DTI has used the "public interest" clause in the article, claiming the takeover raises concerns about the regulation of the electricity sector. The EC has three to four weeks to respond.

A prolonged MMC investigation would be a blow to EDF since it made the £1.9bn takeover unconditional on regulatory clearance and has already paid London Electricity's former owner, US company Entergy, £150m.

Outlook, page 15

French group bids for ECC

SHARES IN English China

Clays jumped by 50 per cent to 240.5p yesterday after the struggling clay and specialty chemicals group found itself on the receiving end of a hostile £800m cash bid from the larger and more diversified French building materials and minerals group Imetal.

The offer values ECC shares at 225p or 41 per cent above the market price at the close of trading last Friday.

It came just five days after the French company gave ECC an ultimatum demanding acceptance of its offer within 48 hours, which ECC rejected on

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

the grounds that it gave insufficient time for serious consideration.

Imetal insists that the offer is not hostile, but the chief executive officer, Patrick Kron, accused the ECC management of failing to exploit the technology available to it, failing to acquire cheap kaolin reserves in Brazil and failing to extract the necessary financial returns from Calgon, the specialty chemicals company ECC bought back in 1993.

Combining the two companies will double the size of

Imetal's own ceramics and pigments division, allowing it to improve the range of goods and services it offers to customers worldwide.

Imetal would not spell out possible closures and disposals, but the bid premium can only be justified by the substantial savings a takeover could provide, Mr Kron said.

ECC's head office and the two companies' china clay operations in Georgia are likely to suffer, while Calgon could be sold to the US-based Minerals Technology group.

ECC is in the grip of a severe downturn in demand from the

pottery and paper industries. Sales have fallen 5 per cent over the three years from 1995, operating profits are down 7.7 per cent, pre-tax profits have fallen 10.6 per cent to a forecast £85m in the year just ended.

The dividend of 13p a share is thought to be safe, however, and the shares were yielding over 10 per cent at last week's share price of 160p.

Analysts yesterday took the view that 225p a share is too cheap. But most are forecasting a 10 per cent fall in earnings to 19.4p for 1998, recovering to 20p in 1999, but not regaining 1997 levels until 2000.

Goldman reshuffle revives float plan

GOLDMAN SACHS' senior partner Jon Corzine is to relinquish responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Wall Street investment bank, as part of a top management reshuffle designed to pave the way for a revival of stalled plans to float the business within the next few months, writes Andrew Garfield.

Mr Corzine, the more senior of the two co-chief executives, says he wants to concentrate his efforts on getting the firm's initial public offering (IPO) off the ground.

Sources say that with the New York stock market now surging to new highs and last autumn's share price collapse just a memory, Goldman could be ready to go ahead with plans

to sell 10-15 per cent of the business as early as this spring.

The original plans for a \$30bn IPO were shelved last September after market turmoil wiped 60 per cent off the value of New York's top firms' shares. Since then Mr Corzine has come under fire for alleged failure of nerve in cancelling the flotation when other firms went ahead.

Mr Corzine will become co-chairman alongside Henry Paulson, the other current co-chief executive, who from now on will also be sole chief executive. In addition John Thain, chief financial officer, and John Thornton, long the most senior Goldman partner in Europe and now head of Asia, were named as co-chief operating officers.

Leading German stocks fell amid renewed concerns of slowing economic growth. The benchmark Dax Xetra Index closed down 104.05 points - or 1.94 percentage points - at 5266.46.

Key fallers included financial stocks, with sentiment knocked by reports that profits at Dresdner's investment banking division declined by 25 per cent last year. Retail stocks were also hit over worries that slowing consumer spending would dent profits. Shares in Metro AG, Europe's biggest retailer, fell 4.04 euros to 67.7 following a series of broker

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE CHIPS were weighed down by worries that they had moved ahead too quickly and cautious comments from a clutch of groups, including the conglomerate Tomkins. Footsie fell 62.2 points to 6,085; at one time it was up 39.3. Supporting indices made single-figure gains.

Tomkins, the weakest Footsie constituent, lost 13p to 228.5p; British American Tobacco, following its takeover of rival Rothmans International, jumped 84p to 625p. Derek Pain, page 17

NEW YORK

US STOCKS retreated from Friday's record highs, with concerns over Brazil weighing heavily on investors. At lunch-time, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 63.85 points to 9579.37, a fall of 0.66 per cent.

Franklin Merton at Ariel Capital Management said: "Shares rose too far too fast in a remarkable week in the market." Technology stocks, however, continued to find favour. Gains by Intel helped lift the Nasdaq Composite 9.13 points to 2353.54.

TOKYO

JAPAN'S STOCK market had a mixed day's trading as investors digested the impact of the yen's continued rise against the dollar. The Nikkei closed marginally down on the day, falling 23.33 points, or 0.2 per cent, to 13,368.48.

However, major exporters, such as Sony and Toyota, saw marked falls in their share prices amid concerns that a stronger yen would hit overseas earnings. Shares in Sony closed down 70 yen to 4,740, while Toyota fell 80 yen to 2,770.

SAO PAULO

Brazilian share prices were sharply lower in early afternoon trade amid persistent worries over the nation's financial health. The Bovespa index was trading down more than 7 per cent at 6304.64 as investors continued to digest the decision by Minas Gerais, the Brazilian state, to default on debt payments to the government. The market was also unnerved by heavy dollar flight from Brazil, negative trade balance data and uncertainty over interest rate policy, according to traders. One said: "The market remains

FRANKFURT

Leading German stocks fell amid renewed concerns of slowing economic growth. The benchmark Dax Xetra Index closed down 104.05 points - or 1.94 percentage points - at 5266.46. Key fallers included financial stocks, with sentiment knocked by reports that profits at Dresdner's investment banking division declined by 25 per cent last year. Retail stocks were also hit over worries that slowing consumer spending would dent profits. Shares in Metro AG, Europe's biggest retailer, fell 4.04 euros to 67.7 following a series of broker

News Analysis: London may be losing out already in the fight for dominance among European exchanges

Battle for euro control begins

THE FIRST few days of the euro's life have set competing financial centres scrambling to become the dominant market-place for new euro-denominated financial instruments.

Many traders believe that the market-places which prove most popular in the euro's early days will maintain this position as the months and years roll on.

Hence the distress shown by French financial institutions at the failure of French government bonds to attract as much investor attention as their German equivalents. Last week, the French exchanges were shaken by news that turnover in German bonds had been 10 times that of French bonds.

And hence the eagerness of the competing pan-European indices - the FTSE Europe and the Dow Jones Stoxx - to establish themselves as the equity index benchmark in the minds of potential investors.

The last few days have seen reports that Clearset, the French clearing house, is trying to muscle in on the London Clearing House's dominant position in the European government bond markets.

Most attention has been focused on the battle between London and Brussels to set the key benchmark reference rates for European money markets.

To date, London has been trounced by Brussels, and some fear this could spell the beginning of the end of the City's dominance of the European financial markets.

For the last decade, the reference rate set by the British Bankers' Association here in London - now known as Euro Libor - has been the bench-

By LEA PATERSON

mark for trade in major European derivative contracts. However, since the euro's launch, continental banks have been shunning Euro Libor and turning to Euribor, a new reference rate for money market deals set by the Brussels-based European Banking Federation.

Although senior figures in the City maintain it would be premature to admit defeat, most traders believe Brussels' Euribor has already won the battle.

Trading volumes to date show that Euribor - essentially an average of borrowing rates of a group of European banks - is proving immensely popular. It is estimated that, since the beginning of the year, between 60 and 80 per cent of interest rate swaps have been based on Euribor rather than London's Euro Libor.

As Ed Condon, head of derivatives at the investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB), put it, "The market will determine the benchmark rate, and right now it seems that it is telling us that it is Euribor."

Less clear-cut, however, is whether the markets' passion for Euribor is sustainable. "There's clearly been a preference so far for Euribor," admitted one City figure, "but this initial burst of enthusiasm for the Euribor could simply be pent-up demand."

Simon Hills, a director of the British Bankers' Association remarked: "So far, there has been pressure on mainland European banks to use Euribor. We're going to have to wait for the brouhaha to die down before we can really tell what's going on."

According to one trader at a leading investment bank: "All the market is looking for is to establish a single credible



Frankfurt Stock Exchange: The European centres that prove most popular in the early days of the euro could maintain their dominance

EURIBOR WINS INTEREST RATES BATTLE

	contracts traded	3mth Euribor Libor/Eurex	3mth Euro Libor Libor/Eurex	3mth Euribor Libor/Eurex
January 1999				
Monday 4	50/11,650	0/0	159,864/69	
Tuesday 5	554/15,810	3/0	209,864/408	
Wednesday 6	0/8,037	35/0	176,000/0	
Thursday 7	0/16,679	358/0	220,184/0	
Friday 8	0/16,679	0/0	269,366/0	

Although the official City line may be that it is far too soon to sound the death knell for Euro Libor, it is difficult to find anyone on the trading floor who agrees. Traders who deal with the competing reference rates on a daily basis are convinced that Euribor has already won.

Simon Hills, a director of the British Bankers' Association remarked: "So far, there has been pressure on mainland European banks to use Euribor. We're going to have to wait for the brouhaha to die down before we can really tell what's going on."

According to one trader at a leading investment bank: "All the market is looking for is to establish a single credible

benchmark. To say there is pent-up demand is wrong. There has been political pressure for the European banks to use Euribor and this pressure will continue."

Even Liffe, London's financial futures exchange and traditionally a supporter of all things British, seems to be distancing itself from the London-based Euro Libor. At the end of last year, Liffe announced that it would be

referencing its heavily traded Euromark and Eurolira contracts to Euro Libor. Now the exchange admits that "market conditions" could force it to switch to Euribor instead.

Traders argue that market participants value liquidity above all else. Competing benchmarks are bad for liquidity because trading volumes are split between different markets.

This means, traders say, that whichever reference rate proves most popular in the initial weeks of trade will become the benchmark for the industry. Hence the attention paid by the City to the relative performance of the two rates - as well as to other competing euro benchmarks such as the French and the German government bonds and the Eurotop and the Stoxx equity indices - since the euro's launch.

Not surprisingly, therefore, many of the key benchmarks for the new euro financial instru-

ments have already been set. Euribor seems to have effectively established itself as the benchmark European money market rate. German government bonds, not French bonds, will be the benchmark in the new euro-zone.

For Stoxx versus FTSE Europe, the picture is less clear-cut, but most traders believe that the FTSE indices have the upper hand.

This does not all necessarily spell disaster for national exchanges - it simply means that they have to move quickly to adapt to changing investor demands.

If the French exchanges, for example, fail to realise that French bonds and French bond-based contracts are less appealing to investors than German bonds, then they are bound to lose out.

The same goes for Liffe - which arguably has the most to lose from the switch from Euro Libor to Euribor. A failure to

offer sufficient Euribor-referenced contracts could see trade migrate to Liffe's arch-rival, the Eurex exchange, formerly known as the Deutsche Terminbörse.

Indeed, the speed with which trade in the German government bond future (the Bund) migrated from Liffe to Eurex shows how quickly markets can move if investors believe there is a better deal to be had elsewhere.

As Mr Hills at the BBA put it: "Although personally I would like to see the Euro Libor become the benchmark, I don't think it would be disastrous for London if it doesn't. It would only be a disaster if our financial creativity did not allow us to create new contracts."

Put simply, the market has already chosen many of the benchmark products it wants to see traded after the birth of the euro. The challenge for the national exchanges is to respond to market demand.

Financial sector set for job losses and slowdown

By ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

BRITAIN'S FINANCIAL sector expects a sharp slowdown in business and significant job losses in the first quarter of this year, according to the latest survey of the sector by the Confederation of British Industry and consultants PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

The biggest losses are falling in the general insurance sector, where mergers such as Commercial Union-General Accident last year and the flood of new competition are leading to substantial job losses.

Banks too are seeing significant contraction. Angus Hishop, senior banking partner at PriceWaterhouseCoopers, said this was likely to intensify as the euro throws into relief the price differentials between Britain and the Continent.

He also warned that the banking review headed by the former telecoms watchdog Don Cruikshank will put pressure on banks to cut prices in some areas.

"British banks employ a lot of people compared to their counterparts in continental Europe," he said. "The British banking sector is more profitable but whether it is more efficient has to be tested. On some measures, for example, people per assets, British banks are less efficient."

The one surprise of the survey was the securities firms at the heart of the City of London, which have seen a sharp rebound in confidence compared with the last quarter of 1998 after the financial markets turmoil.

According to the survey, optimism has seen the sharpest bounce-back since March 1991, with a substantial recovery in business volume, commission income, trading income and overall profitability.

However, the level of employment fell, reflecting the rapid response of big trading banks like Merrill Lynch and Salomon Smith Barney to the profits dip. However, the job cuts were in specific areas like fixed income and emerging markets, rather than across the board.

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IN BRIEF

Record year for Airbus Industrie

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE, the European aircraft manufacturer, yesterday announced that 1998 had been another record sales year with orders for 556 jets worth \$39bn. Production levels are increasing by 30 per cent this year to 290 aircraft and to 317 aircraft in 2000. The formation consortium, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, said it did not expect to complete the transformation to a single corporate entity until autumn.

Kwik-Fit tumbles

SHARES IN auto-repairs group Kwik-Fit Holdings tumbled after a warning from the company that trading in December had not seen its usual seasonal uplift from bad driving conditions. The stock - which on Friday was near record levels of over 580p set in May 1998 - dropped 73.5p to 462p. Kwik-Fit's broker, adviser WestLB Panmure cut its 1999 pre-tax profit forecast to £57m from £62m.

ISMM takeover

DENNIS THE MENACE, Homer Simpson and Darth Vader are due to sign up to the World Cup squad in a £20m transfer deal. Swiss-based ISMM Investments, owner of marketing rights to the World Cup, is set to take over UK character licensing company Copyright Promotions Group, creating one of the largest sports and entertainment licensing companies in the world. The £20m price tag represents a premium of 20.9 per cent to CPG's share price on Friday.

Field in bid talks

LEADING CARTONS and labels maker Field Group yesterday confirmed it was in bid talks. Shares in the group, whose performance has stalled recently, rocketed as analysts were mystified about the identity of the Amersham-based group's suitor. Shares jumped 56p to 281.5p, adding 24 per cent to Field's market value.

Decline in factory output continues

BY DIANE COYLE
AND MICHAEL HARRISON

FACTORY OUTPUT fell in November for the fourth month running, and prices charged at the factory gate in December were flat for the first time in nearly four years, according to official figures yesterday.

A separate survey from the British Retail Consortium, backed by mixed trading statements from retailers, suggested Christmas on the high street was disappointing, although sales had surged in the new year.

But the gloom has not overtaken the rest of the economy. GDP scraped a 0.1 per cent increase in the final three months of 1998, according to an estimate from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. And the Institute of Directors reported a modest improvement in general business optimism in its quarterly survey.

Some economists still reckon official figures due next week will show the economy flat, at best, at the end of last year. There was support for this in the new estimate of the trend in manufacturing from the Office

of National Statistics, revised from minus 1 per cent to minus 2 per cent.

However, most experts still agree that, with luck, the British economy will escape a full-blown recession. Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, said: "In the early 1990s it was a recession made at home. If we do have one as the decade ends, it will be because of what happens abroad."

Manufacturing output fell 0.2 per cent in November, and 1.1 per cent in the latest three months. The steepest falls occurred in textiles, basic metals and machine tools. Output climbed in industries such as electrical engineering, which includes computers, and chemicals.

Prices charged at the factory gate were flat in December for the first time since March 1990. "Core" output prices dropped by a record 0.6 per cent during the month. Prices paid by

manufacturers for raw materials fell 1.2 per cent, driven by an 11.4 per cent drop in fuel prices.

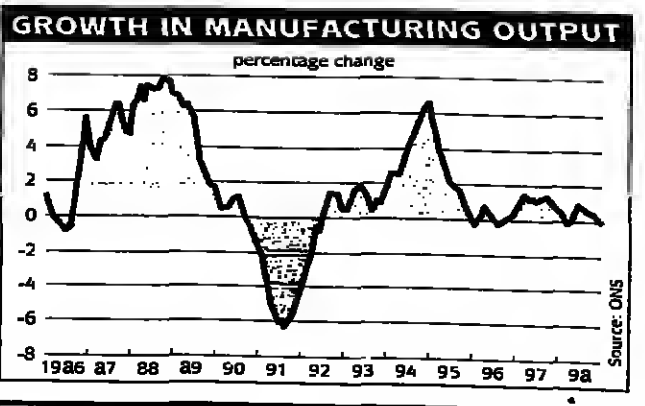
A gloomy note was also struck by the British Retail Consortium, whose monthly survey reported a small pick-up in sales growth in December. Total sales growth was up to 2.6 per cent from 2.4 per cent, and like-for-like sales were flat after a fall of 0.4 per cent in the year to November.

The survey was accompanied by a mixed set of Christmas trading statements. The men's fashion group, Austin Reed, reported a 12 per cent decline in like-for-like sales in the six months to 31 January and announced the closure of a shirt factory in County Donegal with the loss of 136 jobs.

Austin Reed said trading since Christmas was proving "exceptionally difficult" and added that pre-tax profits for the year to 31 January would only come in at £5m to £6.5m, against analysts' forecasts of £10m.

There was more upbeat news, however, from a string of niche retailers. The book retailer, Ottaker's, said like-for-like sales over the six-week period to 2 January were 6.3 per cent higher while Majestic Wine reported a 2.7 per cent rise for the nine weeks from 3 November.

Merchant Retail said like-for-like sales across its Perforce Shop chain were up by 9 per cent and in Joplings, its North-east-based department store chain, by 4.7 per cent. Meanwhile, the supermarket chain Morrison said like-for-like sales were 5.3 per cent higher in the five weeks to 3 January.



Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Copyright Promotions Grp (I)	10.72m (8.12m)	0.427m (0.061m)	1.81p (0.61p)	-	-	-
Deutsche Bank (I)	67.57m (63.25m)	4.03m (3.43m)	15.12p (13.66p)	2.5p (3.25p)	19.02.99	18.01.99
Fyffes (I)	61.35m (1.32m)	62.14m (54.04m)	12.75p (10.51p)	2.82p (2.28p)	07.04.99	18.01.99
Harrods Group (I)	3.46m (3.18m)	0.588m (-)	1.75p (1.44p)	-	-	-
Pace Micro Technology (I)	99.4m (88.67)	8.28m (12.34m)	2.5p (4.9p)	-	-	-
Pink Holdings (I)	10.975m (10.96m)	1.216m (1.088m)	2.31p (2.22p)	0.25p (0.20p)	08.04.99	08.02.99
RED Holdings (I)	57.83m (55.51m)	1.825m (1.188m)	11.64p (7.73p)	0.82p (0.75p)	08.04.99	08.04.99
Southwestair (I)	3.558m (5.19m)	0.256m (0.65m)	1.75p (4.49p)	10.0p (18.0p)	01.04.99	08.03.99
Sovereign (I)	20.68m (20.51m)	1.827m (1.777m)	2.4p (2.4p)	0.55p (0.4p)	08.04.99	08.03.99
(I) - First (I) - Interim				- (0.14p)	-	-

THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 12 January 1999

Forget the ethics, look at the money

ETHICAL INVESTMENT doesn't pay, it would seem. The tobacco industry is still many people's favourite bogey, a medically proven killer and sometimes liar, but following settlement of most outstanding litigation in the US, boy has it also become the City's favourite glamour stock.

Most astonishing has been the transformation brought about at BAT Industries. For years, BAT's chosen strategy was aggressively to diversify away from the dreaded weed, taking the company into a series of dull but reliable alternatives. Fine, that was the accepted way for companies to pariah industries in those days.

However, even after conglomerates started to become unfashionable, BAT largely refused to accept the demerger and divestment case, insisting that no value would be created by going this route. An ultimately fruitless breakup bid from Sir James Goldsmith and associates failed to shake BAT's faith in the multi-faceted business group. It's hard to be definite about



OUTLOOK

when the scales finally fell from the company's eyes, but under the present chairman, Martin Broughton, BAT has embraced the stock market's favourite mantra of "demerge, focus and consolidate" with a success which almost defies belief. From beyond the grave, Sir James was toasting his own foresight. What has been accomplished over the last year is a corporate restructuring of textbook perfection and eloquence.

First came the demerger of BAT's insurance interests and their

simultaneous consolidation with Zurich Insurance to create a new pan-European insurance giant. The merger of the remaining tobacco operations with Rothmans to form a cigarette company on a par with Philip Morris of the US completes the process. Along the way BAT has created untold shareholder value.

At the end of August, just before the insurance demerger, BAT Industries shares were trading at 500p each. Today shares in British American Tobacco alone are worth 626p. To that must be added the value of a share in Allied Zurich of 987p. The effective rise in value has therefore been more than three-fold. Few demergers and subsequent consolidations can be said to have paid off so handsomely.

The industrial logic of BAT's latest piece of restructuring, the merger with Rothmans, seems hard to fault, though the creation of a company with 16 per cent of the world cigarette market and dominance in 55 countries makes the mind boggle. The only obvious fly

in the ointment is that in so doing, BAT adds a powerful minority shareholder with 35 per cent of its capital. Persuading the South African Rupert family to take a third of this holding in non-voting stock only partially solves the problem.

At this stage, the two sides speak in unison on strategy and management, but the trouble with big minority shareholders with substantial business interests elsewhere is that they are not always prone to remain that way.

Still, for the time being all is sweetness and light and shareholders must thank their lucky stars that Johann Rupert proved as pliable as he did.

Like most modern trends, the big corporation's fondness for the global mega-merger started in the US. Intriguingly, however, many of the most recent instances were born in Britain - Diageo to create a group with approaching 20 per cent of the world branded spirits market, BTR and Siebe, and BP Amoco. Virtually unnoticed, Blue Circle has also through acquisition accumulated a

huge chunk of the world cement market.

Many of these mergers are monopolistic in intent - an attempt to recreate local market dominance on a global scale. But they are also a response to the intensity of international competition as industries become progressively global in nature, and as such cannot be dismissed as entirely a bad thing. From this perspective, they seem more a product of corporate weakness than strength. Certainly we seem destined to see a lot more of them.

French folly

THE FRENCH won the bid battle for London Electricity with some nifty Gallic footwork. Having paid over the cash, Electricite de France then hopped back over the Channel assuming that the deal would sail through the regulatory authorities. It has now had a nasty shock.

So sure was EdF that the deal would fall to Europe to vet that it

persuaded the Brussels bureaucrats to waive the rules which normally prevent unconditional bids being tabled. Now the new Trade Secretary Stephen Byers has rather upset the apple cart by requesting that jurisdiction to vet the deal be handed back to the UK.

These are not the kind of requests that national competition authorities often make, nor are they the sort that Brussels often refuses. The one thing that EdF knows for sure is that it will get a rougher ride in London than Brussels.

Mr Byers' predecessor, Peter Mandelson, had already made it plain that he was not impressed by the way that the cross-Channel interconnector acts as a one-way street to pump subsidised nuclear power into Britain at the expense of coal. Nor is EdF's case improved by the fact that it is bid-proof.

A six-month monopolies investigation looks to be the least that EdF can expect, followed by a set of conditions which redress the imbalance. If so, it will not be the first company to discover that sec-

ond-guessing the regulators can be a risky business. As Bass, Ladbroke, Tomkins and PowerGen have all discovered to their cost, it pays to ask for permission first.

Post secrets

FOR AS long as anyone can remember, the Post Office has banded oo about the need to be treated like any other commercial organisation. Sadly, when it came to what was breathlessly described as its biggest announcement in 30 years, it fell lamentably short of the standards of disclosure such status requires.

We are not allowed to know how much the Post Office has paid for German Parcel, what its profits and debts are, how the deal has been financed, or the effect on Post Office's balance sheet. Commercial in confidence, old boy. No wonder its private sector competitors fear the worst, and no wonder, with such a culture of secrecy, the Post Office is destined to stay forever in the public sector.

Post Office under fire for German Parcel purchase

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE POST OFFICE'S £350m acquisition of German Parcel, its first major overseas expansion, ran into trouble yesterday after a rival parcel operator warned it would complain to the Brussels competition authorities over the financing of the deal.

Meanwhile, the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee called on the Government to clarify what the Post Office's borrowing powers were following the agreement last month to give it greater commercial freedom.

John Roberts, chief executive of the Post Office, would not disclose how much it had paid for German Parcel, the country's fourth largest postal operator

with sales of £250m a year and 7 per cent of the market, nor how much profit it made. He said the deal had been funded out of the Post Office's own reserves, commercial borrowings and money borrowed from the Government at commercial rates.

But the privately-owned parcel operator UPS said it planned to complain about the deal to the European Commission and accused the Post Office of funding the purchase out of its monopoly Royal Mail profits.

A spokesman, Anton van der Lander, said that if Parcelforce, the Post Office's own parcel business, was a stand-alone

commercial business, it would not have been able to borrow £300m to finance the deal.

The deal also gives the Post Office a 23 per cent shareholding in General Parcel, a much bigger international parcel operator with sales of £2bn. The stake is owned by German Parcel.

Mr Roberts would not be drawn on whether the Post Office planned to increase its stake in General Parcel but he said it intended to hold discussions with the other shareholders, the next biggest of which is United Carriers.

The new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Stephen Byers, welcomed the deal.

Shares hit as dollar falls further against yen

THE DOLLAR weakened against the yen for the ninth day running yesterday, declining to its lowest level since August 1996. It fell as low as ¥108.53 from ¥110.85 on Friday, writes Diane Coyle.

Fears that Japanese investors might be withdrawing funds from the US ahead of the

end of the financial year on 31 March, combined with jitters about the Brazilian rescue package, also hit share prices. Although the decline was limited by a fresh surge in technology stocks, the Dow Jones index was down nearly 65 points at 9578.7 by mid-morning.

The weakness spilled over to London, where the FTSE-100 index ended above its lows but still down 62 points at 6,085.

Alan Greenspan, the US Federal Reserve chairman, told a meeting of central bank gov-

ernors in Hong Kong that he thought any slowdown in the

US economy would be relatively moderate. Even so, with Japan's central bank governor telling a meeting of the Bank for International Settlements that Japan's economy has bottomed out, market sentiment shifted against the dollar. Koji Tanami, Japan's

vice-finance minister, said yesterday the US had a "sense of crisis" about Brazil. It was the latest in a stream of official Japanese comments which have helped weaken the dollar.

Shares in Brazil fell 6 per cent yesterday ahead of a key vote on tax increases in Congress.

Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from the start of business on 12th January 1999 the following Business Cheque, Deposit and Lending rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

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Business Investment Account - paid monthly					
30 day notice account					
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£100,000-249,999	4.96	4.85	4.70	4.60	3.68
£25,000-99,999	4.70	4.60	4.44	4.35	3.48
£10,000-24,999	4.18	4.10	3.92	3.85	3.08
£1-9,999	1.26	1.25	1.00	1.00	0.80
Premier Interest Account - paid monthly					
14 day notice account					
£250,000+	4.91	4.80	4.65	4.55	3.64
£100,000-249,999	4.70	4.60	4.44	4.35	3.48
£25,000-99,999	4.44	4.35	4.18	4.10	3.28
£10,000-24,999	4.02	3.95	3.76	3.70	2.96
£1-9,999	2.78	2.75	2.53	2.50	2.00
Business Call Account - paid monthly					
£250,000+	3.35	3.30	3.09	3.05	2.44
£50,000-249,999	3.14	3.10	2.89	2.85	2.28
£10,000-49,999	2.78	2.75	2.53	2.50	2.00
£1,000-9,999	2.48	2.45	2.22	2.20	1.76
£1-999	2.22	2.20	1.97	1.95	1.56
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£1+	4.37	4.30	4.11	4.05	3.24
Designated Clients Account - paid quarterly					
£100,000+	4.37	4.30	3.96	3.90	3.12
£50,000-99,999	4.27	4.20	3.96	3.90	3.12
£10,000-49,999	4.01	3.95	3.60	3.55	2.84
£2,000-9,999	2.93	2.90	2.68	2.65	2.12
£1-1,999	1.10	1.10	0.85	0.85	0.68
Schools Banking Account - paid quarterly					
£1+	4.11	4.05	3.85	3.80	3.04
Capital Reserve Account - paid quarterly					
7 day notice account					
£250,000+	4.89	4.80	4.63	4.55	3.64
£100,000-249,999	4.68	4.60	4.42	4.35	3.48
£50,000-99,999	4.42	4.35	4.16	4.10	3.28
£10,000-49,999	4.01	3.95	3.75	3.70	2.96
£1-9,999	3.49	3.45	3.24	3.20	2.56
Business Interest Cheque Account - paid quarterly					
£250,000+	2.63	2.60	2.37	2.35	1.88
£100,000-249,999	2.17	2.15	1.91	1.90	1.52
£50,000-99,999	1.71	1.70	1.46	1.45	1.16
£10,000-49,999	1.36	1.35	1.00	1.00	0.80
£2,000-9,999	1.05	1.05	0.75	0.75	0.60
£1-1,999	0.80	0.80	0.50	0.50	0.40
BICA for Charities - paid quarterly					
£1+	2.63	2.60	2.37	2.35	1.88
Flexible Business Loan					
					ANNUAL RATE %
Standard					11.64
Special					9.48
Preferential					9.00
Business Overdraft					
Managed A					11.28
Managed B					10.20
Managed C					9.12
Managed D					8.64



Interest rates may vary from time to time. All rates are per annum except where stated.
*AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and is the notional rate which illustrates the gross or tax-free rate as if paid and compounded on an annual basis. As every account for a savings product will contain an AER you will be able to compare more easily.
*NET - The rate of interest which would be payable after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the rate specified by law.
*GROSS - The rate of interest which would be payable after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the rate specified by law.
*For charities with turnover under £100,000 pa. For charities with turnover above £100,000 pa.
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10/21/2020

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Perverse bears get upper hand

WORRIES THAT shares had run ahead too quickly overwhelmed a rousing round of corporate activity, leaving Footsie 62.2 points off at 6,085.

Normally a deluge of bids and deals would send shares soaring. But the stock market seemed intent on displaying its more perverse instincts, allowing a stream of profit warnings and nervousness in New York to dominate its approach. So the bear argument won the day and profit takers got the upper hand.

British American Tobacco, following its descent on the once quoted Rothmans International cigarette group, lit up 84p to 62.5p, and English China Clays, the minerals group, jumped 82.5p to 242.5p after rejecting a 22.5p share cash offer from Imetal of France.

Enterprise Oil and Lasso were more subdued as merger talks between the two groups were confirmed. In the weak oil environment the two are, in effect, cuddling together to keep warm. While Lasso managed a modest 12.25p gain

MOVES ARE thought to be about to give a new lease of life to loss-making Versatile, with its system for painting on glass. The shares have cracked from 4p to 0.75p since arriving on the market two years ago.

There is talk that the glass business will be hived off, possibly with father and son directors Les and Nick Easton buying it. The rumour would be left as a cash-rich shell.

from near its year's low to 106.5p, Enterprise fell 5p to 278p, its lowest for more than five years. Whether the struggling oil groups will, after their hostile encounter four years ago, enjoy a cosy merger remains to be seen. Some expect ENI, the Italian group, to intervene.

The BAT deal puffed Imperial Tobacco 7p higher to 640p but left Callaher down 3p at 405.5p.

A clutch of under-car shares joined the take over party. Field, the packaging group, rose 55p to 281.5p after reporting a bid approach; Sinclair Maritime Healthcare talked about a "number of approaches" and rose 23p to 136.5p and Copyright, the merchandising group, gained 20p to 127.5p after agreeing a 130p share offer.

Regal Hotels was unchanged at 31p on its £42.5m acquisition of County Hotels and Marston Thompson & Evershed slipped 5p to 297.5p.

MARKET REPORT



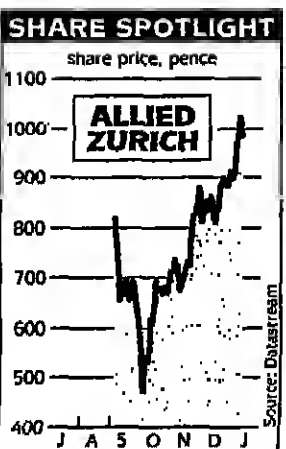
DEREK PAIN

as Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, not surprisingly, rejected its PacMan attack.

Rumours also abounded. Cordiant, the advertising group, denied bid speculation but the shares romped ahead 23.5p to 146p. Sears, on talk of a cash hand out as part of its defence against high street entrepreneur Philip Green, strengthened 34p to 280p.

On-Line jumped 13p to 29.5p although it said it could not account for the rise, and Brent International, the chemical group where talks are on, hardened 10.5p to 110p on rumours that a 140p share offer had been agreed.

First Leisure shot ahead 30.5p to 232p as stories swirled that bid action was about to erupt. But Vickers, the engineering, failed to respond to weekend reports that its tank division would merge with Giat, the state-owned French



group. The shares shed 1.5p to 167p.

There was even a merger in the sedate investment trust world. Two Aberdeen trusts - New Dawn and Emerging Asia - are getting together. Emerging Asia rose 3.75p to 26.25p; New Dawn dropped 0.5p to 112.5p.

The market had started with a solid gain, reflecting New York's Friday peak. But worries about insurers and banks, and fears telecoms had shot ahead of the game eroded confidence. Allied Zurich, the insurer demerged from BAT last year, was one of the worst performing Footsie con-

stituents, falling 34p to 987p.

Profit caution then took a hand. Tomkins, the buns to guns conglomerate, made doleful noises with its figures and promptly fell 13p to 228.5p. Others erring on the side of caution included Kwik-Fit, the tyres and exhausts group, which reversed 73.5p to 462p; Courtaulds Textiles 13p to 160p; Paterson Zochonis 19p to 342.5p and Austin Reed, 1.5p at 84p.

It was not, however, all one-way traffic. Shining through the trading gloom were Wm Morrison, the supermarket chain, up 10.5p to 307.5p, and TJ Hughes 8p to 174.5p. Book seller Ottakar's, pub chain SFT and wine group Majestic failed to impress the market with reports of improved festive trading.

Dixons, ahead of tomorrow's interim figures, rose 23p to 881p and Reuters, given a push by Salomon Smith Barney, firmed 13.5p to 782.5p.

The mid cap index rose 5.6 to 4,982 and the small cap 7.7 to 2,141.5. Turnover, although not reaching some of the ex-

EASYSCREEN, which provides dealing systems for futures and options traders, arrived with a splash on the fringe, lightly-regulated Oxf share market.

The price rose 43p to 218p. The company, formed last summer, is valued at almost £13m. But it is a thin market with directors accounting for 60 per cent of the capital and a single shareholder with 25 per cent.

otic levels hit last week, was a respectable near 900 million shares.

Caradna, the building materials group, fell 1.5p to 103.5p as an institutional shareholder placed stock. But HSBC turned more positive, suggesting a 170p break up value and a 135p target price.

KS Biomedix, a fledgling drugs group, jumped 20.5p to 299.5p on suggestions that it is on the verge of producing key trial data. The market got hold of a story that KS had carried out successful tests on its osteo-arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis treatments.

Middlesex, with metal interests in Russia, firmed 0.5p to 1.75p as chairman Lord Owen added 2.5 million shares to his collection, taking his stake to 0.80 per cent. The shares have been as high as 9.25p, highest in the past year is 5.5p.

SEAQ VOL: 898.8M
SEAQ TRADES: 78,423

Investment: Textiles group warns that profits will be 12 per cent down

Courtaulds hit hard by clothing downturn

Digital TV shifts Pace into the red

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

COURTAULDS TEXTILES yesterday warned that profits for 1998 would be down 12 per cent on the previous year following a dismal autumn for UK clothing sales.

Action already taken to reduce costs and bring production into line with substantially lower demand in the second half will result in an exceptional charge of £11m being taken against profits for 1998 when they are announced on 11 March, the company said yesterday in a trading statement.

The latest charge includes £5m for the Claremont business acquired in September for £46.3m, where Courtaulds announced in December that it was cutting 1220 jobs. The remainder is to cover plant closures already announced elsewhere.

Profit before tax and exceptional items is expected to be

executive, said the UK businesses started the autumn with healthy order books but by year-end sales were significantly lower than expected.

Mr Dyer refused to rule out further cutbacks in the UK in the event of demand remaining weak this year.

"We've nothing planned for the moment. But we are watching very carefully to see how consumer confidence settles down."

He added, however: "Over the longer term there is a move from higher cost countries to lower cost countries."

International markets generally remained stronger than the UK. Courtaulds' French lingerie business benefited from improved product ranges and lower costs, but lace suffered from weaker demand and lower exports from Europe to

the Asia-Pacific region. Sales in the US were strong.

Duncan Hall, an analyst at the stockbroker Wise Speke, said: "The figures are not substantially below where people were. The picture is more what happens in 1999. Courtaulds are being very cautious."

However, the jury is still out on whether the slump in demand in the second half of 1998 is a temporary phenomenon, reflecting weaker consumer confidence generally, or the result of a more permanent shift in consumer tastes.

Mr Hall said that the impact on the industry was far-reaching, with weavers and dye manufacturers suffering a severe downturn in demand, leading to widespread cuts in production and plant closures.

Courtaulds' shares fell 13p to 160p.

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

PACE MICRO TECHNOLOGY, the supplier of television decoders, yesterday appeared to draw a line under its troubled past when it returned to profit and painted a rosy picture of its prospects in the digital television age.

In the half year to the end of November, Pace reported a pre-tax profit of £5.5m, compared to a disastrous loss of £12.5m in the same period last year, on turnover up 14 per cent at £90m.

The figures coincide with the launch of digital television in the UK - the first country in the world to adopt the new standard. Pace is supplying boxes to both British Sky Broadcasting and OnDigital, the rival television groups.

During the period Pace shipped 600,000 boxes, of which 400,000 were digital. However, the more expensive digital boxes accounted for 86 per cent of Pace's revenues.

They were also more profitable. Gross profit margins increased to 25.9 per cent, although Macmillan Miller, the chief executive, immediately warned that margins would be squeezed as competitors such as Philips and Sony increased production.

However, Pace is already looking ahead. The company expects to supply 100,000 boxes to both Cable & Wireless Communications and NTL, the cable operators, who are launching their digital offerings this year.

The CWC box, which Pace developed with Cisco, the US giant, could also help Pace win customers in the US.

The results helped Pace's rehabilitation in the City, after a few years of disastrous share price performance. Although the shares yesterday dipped 2p to 91.5p on profit-taking, analysts were upgrading their full-year profit forecasts to £14m.

"They have a leading position in a market that is taking off so you've got to support them," one analyst said. "But you can be sure it's not going to be a smooth ride."

Tomkins issues profits warning

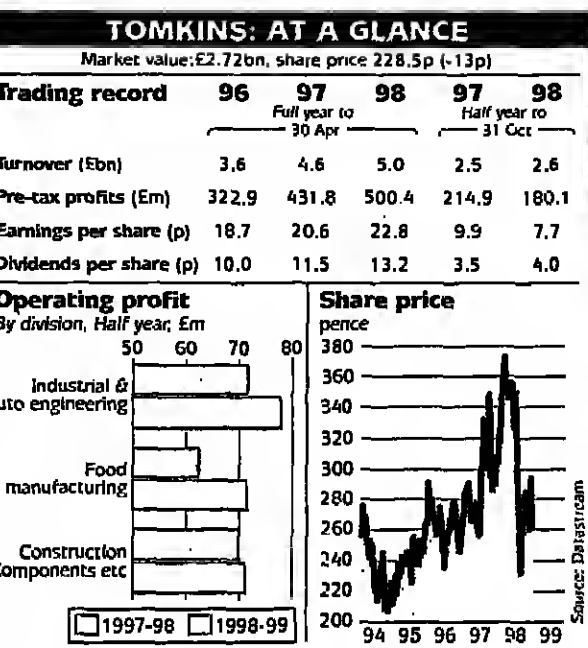
BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

TOMKINS, the diversified industrial group, yesterday issued a cautious profits warning with its results for the six months to the end of October, which more than offset increases in sales, profits and dividends.

Sales rose 6 per cent and profits were up 2 per cent to £20.1m before deducting an exceptional charge of £40m. The interim dividend has been increased from 3.5p to 4p, but the profits were slightly below most City forecasts. The shares, which touched 378p last March, shed 13p to 228.5p.

Greg Hutchings, Tomkins' executive chairman, is confident that the company's inherent strengths will deliver a satisfactory result for the full year. But trading operations have become more challenging since the year end, and market conditions allow few opportunities for price increases.

The industrial and automotive division is suffering from falling demand, and growth in the current year to the end of



April is unlikely to match the previous year, when profits grew by 15 per cent.

Food manufacturing, which is strongest in the UK and France, continues to expand and sales of frozen bakery products to McDonalds, Marks & Spencer and Pizza Hut have doubled in the last two years. Demand for construction components, which sell primarily in the US, remains steady. Orders for components from US car

companies, including replacement parts and new vehicles, remains satisfactory.

Gates, the group's specialist supplier of power transmissions and hoses in the US, grew sales by 4 per cent.

But the industrial sector is weakening and customers in the agricultural construction engineering and paper and packaging are cutting back.

In the past two years Tomkins has sold 22 companies and spent £750m on acquisitions. Gearing remains low at 15 per cent and Tomkins' strategy of actively acquiring new businesses and disposing of underperforming pieces continues to meet with approval in the City.

Profits forecasts for the current year have held up well over the past year, with the consensus down only slightly to £30m until yesterday.

But in the light of the latest figures one analyst yesterday downgraded profits for the full year from £32m to around £31m and earnings per share of 24p. This compared with full-year profits of £50.4m and earnings of 23p in 1997-98.

Camel racing is a winner for Tarmac

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

BUILDING CAMEL racetracks is set to become a big revenue earner for Sir Neville Stammers' Tarmac. The British contractor is just putting the finishing touches to a state-of-the-art track, 23 kilometres long, just outside the city of Dubai.

Apparently the appeal of watching up to 30 camels ridden by teenage jockeys romping around a track is growing fast in the Middle-east. The sport also has a loyal following in Australia and the US, according to a Tarmac spokesman.

More than 200 workmen from the Al Futtaim Tarmac team have spent three months levelling hundreds of sand dunes and shifting half a million cubic metres of sand to create the track on behalf of the national cultural heritage department of Dubai and the United Arab Emirates.

So, any chance of camel racing replacing the 2.30 at Kempton Park back home. I ask? "I don't know about that," said a Tarmac spokesman at his West Midlands head office. "Although it looks like there

are already a couple of camels running at the Wolverhampton races."

ALAN GREENSPAN'S visit to Hong Kong for a central bankers' conference got off to an acrimonious start yesterday as local critics of the government questioned why the chairman of the US Federal Reserve gets paid less than a quarter of his Hong Kong equivalent.

Mr Greenspan gets \$137,600 (£83,394) a year. Joseph Yam, head of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, trousers over US\$1m (£806,000) a year.

Yet while Mr Greenspan is responsible for the health of the world's largest economy - and indirectly the whole world economy - Mr Yam oversees the almost automatic Hong Kong currency board system that merely pegs the local dollar to the US dollar.

"Yam makes seven-times Greenspan's salary. It's ridiculous," said Sir-naming Shaw, a columnist and one of the few Hong Kong people ever to raise the issue publicly. Mr Shaw, head of Shaw Investments, thinks Hong Kong people are reluctant to offend so powerful a figure as the monetary chief.

By comparison, Eddie George at our own Bank of England struggles by on £227,000 a year. Wim Duisenberg's reward for being president of the European Central Bank has not yet been made public. Perhaps Mr Yam should copy the European Union's example and keep vulgar topics like top people's pay under wraps.

A VETERAN of British Leyland's worst years of strikes and union mayhem in the early 1970s has been appointed to run Europe's most productive car plant.



Alan Greenspan: earns \$137,600 (£83,394) a year

John Cushman is succeeding Sir Ian Gibson as managing director of Nissan's Sunderland plant. Mr Cushman served as senior industrial relations officer at the Cowley assembly plant in 1974 before becoming one of the Japanese company's first British recruits in 1984.

The Widnes born and educated rugby fanatic recalls there were several strikes while he was manning the front line

at Cowley, a job he got as "part of my management training".

"It was a time when industrial relations at Leyland plants were at an all time low," he says.

When he joined Nissan with Sir Ian, however, they were given "a blank sheet of paper. There was going to be absolutely zero demarcation - everything was going to be flexible," he says.

Outside work he is a rugby nut, having played scrum half for Widnes Rugby Union Club - "although that's a long time ago now," he sighs. Like British Leyland.

ERIC BARNES, joint deputy chairman of Great Universal Stores (GUS), the home shopping and Argos giant, has joined the board of Nottingham Forest.

Mr Barnes, 66, lives in the Nottingham area and is head of Experian, GUS's information services arm, which is also based in the city. Mr Barnes will be helping the club's manager Ron Atkinson in his attempt to lift Forest from the bottom place in the English Premiership.

Price-rigging investigation

THE LONDON Metal Exchange has launched an investigation into possible price-rigging in the aluminium market, it was announced yesterday. The LME is concerned about the development of spot prices for aluminium, some of which are now higher than futures prices, suggesting that the market may be manipulated. The LME said it was concerned "about the apparent artificial tightness in the market".

IN BRIEF

Hopes of Volvo merger dashed

SHARES OF Swedish vehicle maker, Volvo, slumped five per cent to close at 217 crowns in Stockholm yesterday after the company dashed hopes of an imminent merger with Italian car firm, Fiat.

Volvo said that Fiat was only one of several companies with which discussions were taking place and stressed that the talks were part of a wide-ranging review of options.

"What I know is that there are no discussions in the final stage. As far as I know nothing concrete has come out" Volvo deputy board member Lars-Erik Berg said. Volvo shares had risen by 40 per cent in recent weeks on the back of takeover rumours, but Berg said that the company has been involved in talks which ranged from co-operation at a fairly low level to major deals.

Elsewhere in Europe auto shares closed weaker erasing the gains that had been achieved on hopes of industry consolidation.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES				
Country	Sterling	Dollar	1 month	3 month
UK	1.0000	0.6115	0.6123	0.7049
Australia	2.5524	1.9302	1.9302	1.9302
Canada	1.5171	1.5171	1.5171	1.5171
Denmark	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353
France	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353
Germany	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353
Italy	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353
Japan	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353
Netherlands	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353
Sweden	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353
Switzerland	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353	1.1353
US	1.0000	0.6115	0.6123	0.7049

INTEREST RATES				
UK	Discount	5.25%	Repo/Rate	3.40%
Base	6.00%	Discount	0.50%	0.50%
6 month	6.00%	Discount	0.50%	0.50%
1 year	6.00%	Discount	0.50%	0.50%
2 year	6.00%	Discount	0.50%	0.50%
3 year	6.00%	Discount	0.50%	0.50%
4 year	6.00%	Discount	0.50%	0.50%
5 year	6.00%	Discount	0.50%	0.50%
10 year	6.00%	Discount	0.50%	0.50%

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES				
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume
Long Gilt	Mar-99	119.24	119.70	27300.00
Short Gilt	Mar-99	119.24	119.70	27300.00
Long Euro	Mar-99	119.24	119.70	27300.00
Short Euro	Mar-99	119.24	119.70	27300.00
Long 10yr	Mar-99	119.24	119.70	27300.00
Short 10yr	Mar-99	119.24	119.70	27300.00

INDUSTRIAL METALS				
LME (\$/tonne)	Cash	3 month	6 month	12 month
Aluminium HG	1250	1251	1500	1255
Aluminium Alloy	1035	1040	700	1065
Copper A	1453	1454.5	1700	1460
Lead	811	812	1150	820
Nickel	4560	4570	2100	4630
Tin	5100	5105	3500	5095
Zinc	947.5	948.5	1950	961

OTHER SPOT RATES				
Country	Sterling	Dollar	1 month	3 month
Argentina	1.6370	1.0000	0.6302	0.3850
Brazil	1.9815	1.2105	0.6302	0.3850
China	13.553	0.2787	0.6302	0.3850
Czech Rep	49.985	0.3023	0.6302	0.3850
Egypt	5.6005	3.4213	0.6302	0.3850
Ghana	36.02	2.3475	0.6302	0.3850
Hungary	35.535	215.98	0.6302	0.3850
India	69.718	42.350	0.6302	0.3850
Indonesia	13095.6	8000.0	0.6302	0.3850
Israel	0.4935	0.9015	0.6302	0.3850
Nigeria	150.60	92.000	0.6302	0.3850

GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES				
Index	Base Date	Last	Chg	% Chg
Crude Oil	1970=100	140.92	2.09	1.51
Natural Gas	1970=100	187.83	-1.07	-0.57
Gold	1970=100	48.16	1.56	3.25
Silver	1970=100	128.01	0.00	0.00
Platinum	1970=100	149.51	0.40	0.27
Precious Metals	1970=100	388.87	3.14	0.81

OTHER SPOTS AT 5:30PM					
Commodity	Price	Commodity	Price	Commodity	
Live Cattle	62.50	White Hides	54.00	Live Hogs	62.50
Port Belles	49.05	Black Hides	54.00	Live Pigs	62.50
Orange Juice	101.80	Coron	54.00	Live Lambs	62.50
Wheat	101.80	Coron	54.00	Live Goats	62.50
Wheat	101.80	Coron	54.00	Live Kids	62.50
Wheat	101.80	Coron	54.00	Live Kids	62.50

[illegible]

GET INVESTMENT
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THE CASE

TV free

SPORT

OFT investigation: Premier League insists that clubs must make television deals together - or the game will suffer

Consumer heaven or football hell?

THE CASE

BY NICK HARRIS

IF THE Premier League loses its landmark court case against the Office of Fair Trading, which starts in London this morning and will last for up to four months, football will change forever. The case will essentially concentrate on whether football clubs should make television deals individually or be allowed to continue to negotiate collectively, as they do now, under the umbrella of the League.

Depending on whose picture of the future you believe - and both will be presented to a judge who will decide the case - an OFT win could either see the game charging headlong towards chaos, confusion and ultimately ruin, or entering a new age of consumer heaven where everyone's footballing appetites will be well catered for at an affordable price.

By implication or direct argument the League will present a grim image of the country's richest clubs being forced by law to make individual television agreements against their will. The logical extension of this, it will imply, will be fixture disruption, sport dominated by broadcasters not sportsmen, and an ever-growing gulf between the big clubs and the small. A few years down the line, the League will imply, a small elite will dominate football and the remainder will be left to rot.

Mike Lee, a League spokesman, said yesterday that these outcomes were all possibilities but the core issue is that the OFT is seeking to end collective bargaining - where-

The country's richest clubs might be forced by law to make individual television agreements against their will

by the League sells television rights on behalf of its 20 members for the good of the League as a whole - without heeding the implications.

"That's why this case is so fundamental," Lee said. "Collective bargaining is the product of a democratic agreement," he added, explaining that rights are sold collectively because it is precisely what the clubs themselves want. "The Premier League rule that provides for collective licensing is being challenged."

There is no doubting football's importance to the broadcasters - Sky's initial expansion was driven by its football coverage while *Match of the Day* remains a BBC staple - and vice versa - through the huge funds football acquires from rights. Yet Mike Lee maintains that the League - not television - should remain the game's driving force.

"Only the governing body, looking at all aspects of the game (primarily fixtures and the needs of both clubs and fans), working with all the clubs, is in the best position to oversee television deals," he added.

The OFT will argue that this is not the case and will say the public is being short-changed as a result of the way that television deals for Premier League matches are currently done. It will argue that the public does not have access to a wide enough range of Premier League football on television because the League - along with Sky TV and the BBC, the League's two allies in the case - is acting against the public interest by selling and buying rights on a collective basis.

It will argue that in an information age at the dawn of the digital revolution and in an era of widespread use of new technologies such as the Internet, there is plenty of scope to offer football supporters more choice over how to

FOOTBALL AND TV: THE HIGHLIGHTS

1937
Part of the FA Cup final - Sunderland 3 Preston North End 1 - shown on television (the fledgling BBC) for the first time.

1938
FA Cup final shown live for the first time by BBC who pay five guineas for the rights. Preston beat Huddersfield 1-0.

1955
Sports Special launched by the BBC which occasionally shows edited highlights of international matches and FA Cup games.

1960
ITV becomes the first channel to show a Football League game when it broadcasts the First Division match between Blackpool and Bolton.

1964
BBC2 launches *Match of the Day*, - 45 minutes of highlights on a Saturday night. It proves so successful it is moved to BBC1 to attract higher ratings.

1968
FA Cup final shown in colour for the first time. West Brom beat Everton 1-0 after extra time.

1979
ITV's attempted "Snatch of the Day" is blocked by the courts. BBC and ITV consequently sign a joint contract, worth £2.3m a year, to televise football over four years.

1983
BBC and ITV renew joint contract for £5.2m over two years. Football is shown on a Sunday for the first time by ITV screening Tottenham against Nottingham Forest on 2 October. The audience is five million.

1986
BBC and ITV sign joint contract worth £6.2m over two seasons to screen 14 live League games per year.

1988
TV secures live League and Littlewoods Cup rights (21 live matches per season in total) for four years for £44m.

1992
Sky signs five-year deal worth £192m to show 60 Premier League games per season. The BBC also signs a five-year deal to secure highlights for *Match of the Day*. The deal, including overseas rights, is worth a total of £304m to the Premier League.

1996
Sky signs a new four-year deal for £670m to show 60 Premier League games per season. BBC signs a four-year highlights deal for £73m.

1999
The OFT court case examining the current Premier League/Sky/BBC deals starts.

view the game. Each season, Sky currently shows 60 live Premiership games of the 380 played and the BBC has the rights to screen the highlights, mainly on *Match of the Day*. The OFT will argue that, in theory, all games could be screened live: regional broadcasters might be interested in showing matches in their vicinity as might clubs wanting to provide a service for their supporters. The OFT's core point, in business terms, will be that the current situation is a cartel and that cartels lead to lack of choice, lack of innovation and high prices.

The two sides, over the next 12 to 16 weeks, will call on a variety of witnesses from the worlds of football, business and broadcasting. The daily proceedings are likely to be less than riveting, but the outcome will be of huge significance. Expert opinion is divided over which way the verdict will go. And the implications will be far reaching, not only for football in particular, but for sport in general - especially rugby and cricket.

All this is a far cry from the days when the BBC paid five guineas to screen the FA Cup final and there were more people inside Wembley Stadium than watching the match at home via the fledgling medium of television. As recently as 1979, seasonal rights for top-level football cost little more than £2m and even a decade ago, that figure was no higher than £11m. The existing Sky/BBC deal is worth more than £743m over four years to the Premier League

and the next - to be negotiated in 2000 and to come into play a year later - is likely to see more than £1bn paid if secured by the same parties. With such high stakes, the outcome of the case that starts today takes on an even greater significance. At the moment, the League splits 50 per cent of the Sky/BBC money equally between its members, allocates 25 per cent on the basis of merit at the end of each season, and gives the remaining quarter in "facilitation" fees (dependent on the number of television appearances).

If the OFT wins the case, the League argues that a free-for-all will follow, with its member clubs likely to be swallowed up by television companies. The Arsenal and Manchester Uniteds are sure to become richer still - and are making contingency plans for this eventuality by seeking advice on how they could benefit most if the OFT wins - while the Wembley and Southampton will find it ever harder to compete in an already difficult environment.

It is hard to fault the OFT's case in business terms, but for the good of football it is hard to oppose the League's standpoint. Never mind that it has started to consider its own place in an open market (perhaps as controller of its own digital television station). And never mind the irony in opposing a situation which could lead to the kind of breakaway engineered by itself when splitting from the Football League.

When sharing the spoils works for common good

COMMENT

BY GLENN MOORE
Football Correspondent

SUNDAY'S NFL play-off victory by the Dallas Cowboys will have been accompanied by the customary sound of ringing tills yesterday, as supporters celebrated by indulging in America's other national pastime of going shopping.

The Cowboys' success will have further increased their dominant market share but, however many coffee mugs and pennants they sell, they will not make a cent more than an underdog team like the Indianapolis Colts. Neither will "America's team" derive commensurate benefit from their attractiveness to television and radio, nor from Sunday's customary full-house.

This is because the NFL, the national sport of the world's most capitalist country, is a socialist organisation. Virtually all income, from the sale of media rights and merchandise to gate receipts, is shared 30 ways. This, plus the draft and the salary cap - which spreads the available talent across the NFL - means every team has a chance every year, as this year's surge to the "semi-finals" by the once-hapless New York Jets underlines.

Whereas most US companies are

trying to wipe out their rivals, NFL clubs and the American government recognise that sport is different: without competition it cannot exist. As today's court case between the Office of Fair Trading and the Premier League illustrates, this logic has not made much of an impact in Europe, with the result that only a handful of teams start the season with a realistic chance of winning their respective titles. But, while the Premier League allows clubs to keep their own merchandise and gate income, and largely ignores the impoverished Nationwide League clubs, it does at least ensure some division of the spoils by collectively negotiating television income. This has enabled clubs like Derby and Leicester to establish themselves in the Premiership, and challenge for the minor honours and places in Europe. Should the OFT win this case, such ambitions will be in jeopardy.

The big clubs cannot lose, whatever the result of this case. The likes of Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool are already dominant and this will merely increase their power. BSkyB cannot lose either: if the Premier League wins, the satellite company will retain a monopoly on live coverage (and probably the lion's share of any future deal); if the OFT wins, BSkyB can concentrate on screening Manchester United, assuming their takeover goes through. Everyone else, especially the bulk of supporters, will lose. They may be able to watch their clubs more often but, unless they support one of the giants, there will be less reason to do so. It would also lead to an acceleration in the development of pay-per-view TV and a European league.

If the government is serious about keeping the "people's game" for the people, it should introduce legislation enshrining the clubs' right to negotiate collectively instead of allowing the OFT to challenge it. In return, the game should be forced to surrender 20 per cent of that income for grass-roots development. Just as the best teams work together for the common good, so should the game.

THE PLAYERS

THE OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

The OFT's role is to ensure that businesses act in the public interest and that consumers' choice of goods and services is safeguarded. It has monitored the Premier League's television contracts with Sky and the BBC since the first deal was struck in 1992 and now feels the consumer is suffering. The OFT will argue that in joining together to sell their TV rights collectively, the 20 Premier League clubs form a cartel - limiting choice and inflating prices for the consumer. This would not be acceptable in other industries. It will argue that there should be more sellers in the market; that each club should be free to negotiate individual television deals with broadcasters. The OFT will also say the current cartel limits the amount of football shown on television and, although 60 Premier League games are televised each year, the other 320 are not and there is an unsatisfied demand for football. The OFT will argue that the current deals prohibit regional football programmes and prohibit clubs from screening their own matches for their fans. The OFT is also likely to argue that Sky TV is too dominant in the sports' rights market and other broadcasters' lack of access to football is not good for consumer choice.

THE PREMIER LEAGUE

The Premier League will argue that football cannot be treated in the same way as other products, such as cement, for instance, and that individual clubs cannot be treated as different brands. It will argue that the Premier League as a whole is the brand and that the 20 members should be able to continue to negotiate collectively. The League's case is likely to be argued using a range of doomsday scenarios, outlining what would happen if its members are given the right to negotiate individual television deals. The conclusion will be a few clubs creaming off most of the television money and a widening of wealth gap. Should that happen, there is the danger of an eight or 10-team breakaway that will damage football as a whole. Also, there would be fixture chaos if a large number of broadcasters were involved in trying to arrange matches and that mini-cartels, led by television rather than football interests, will be established. Further, investment trickling from the top level of the game down will dry up as the business interests of clubs - driven by broadcasting revenue - are pursued. The League will say such divisions will fatally undermine the competitive nature of the game.

THE BROADCASTERS

Sky TV and the BBC are the Premier League's co-defendants in the case and will follow the same basic arguments as the League. They will point out how the fortunes of the game have been transformed over the period of their joint deals with the League. Although the onus will be on all three defendants to prove why the current situation does not harm consumer interests, the broadcasters are likely to take a back seat. In court, both will be supportive of the League's case and will argue for maintaining the status quo. Privately, their opinions might differ, however. The BBC will support the League (its football portfolio might be at risk otherwise) whereas Sky would not necessarily be unhappy with an OFT victory. While that would increase the chance of other broadcasters claiming the jewel in its crown, Sky would remain - with experience and contacts throughout the Premiership - well placed to secure deals with individual clubs. Its position could also be viewed as ambivalent owing to Sky's current bid for Manchester United. Should that deal, after an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, go through, Sky would own the largest club in the world and want to exploit its television rights.

TV free-for-all could lead to a breakaway

THE FUTURE

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

COMPARED TO Rupert Murdoch's controversial takeover of Manchester United, the Office of Fair Trading's case against the Premier League has received almost no attention. That is surprising, because the landmark court case has much wider implications for the future of the multi-million pound industry that is British football.

Indeed, Sky would probably have never felt the need to spend £623m of its shareholders' money on Manchester United if it was not worried that the case could end its stranglehold on the rights to screen top football matches - a major reason for its phenomenal success over the past six years.

If the OFT wins its case, however, Manchester United will only be the first club to end up in the hands of large corporate owners - provided the Monopolies and Mergers

Commission clears the deal. NTL, the US cable television operator, has already secured an option to buy Newcastle United. And media giants such as Carlton, Time Warner and United News & Media are all poised to pounce.

This rush of corporate interest is down to broadcasting rights. If the OFT wins, each Premier League club will be free to negotiate its own television deal. And buying the club is the best way for broadcasters to make sure the rights are tied up for good.

According to the OFT's opponents - of which Sky, incidentally, is one - this free-for-all will open up a huge wealth gap. The largest

clubs will tie up all the juiciest deals, helped by the introduction of pay-per-view technology, while smaller clubs will struggle to find anyone interested in their rights.

The results could be disastrous. Contrary to popular belief, the country's 20 largest clubs are collectively not a rich bunch. According to Deloitte & Touche, the accountancy firm, the Premier League clubs reported a combined £9.5m loss in the 1996-97 season. Some smaller clubs are already struggling to cope with players' soaring wage demands. With the loss of a few million pounds a year of guaranteed income from Sky, so the argument goes, some clubs could be facing financial ruin.

However, the argument is not that simple. Mark Oliver, a partner at Oliver & Ohlbaum Associates, a media consultancy, points out that

small clubs will control the rights to show all their home matches - including the ones with the large clubs. "This gives the small clubs some leverage because they can trade rights to their away games in return for the rights to home games," he says.

Geoffrey Hamilton-Fairley, the executive behind the Newcastle takeover and an OFT witness in the case, points out that Sky's monopoly on Premier League rights has prompted it to drive up prices rather than make the matches available to the largest audience.

"Only 18 per cent of the population take Sky Sports. But we know the appetite for football on television is much greater," he argues. "There is no reason why any Premier League club won't make as much money - if not more - in the event of an OFT victory." Other

media companies - keen to break open Sky's monopoly - support that view.

This argument assumes, however, that the league does not disintegrate. So far, the evidence is unclear. In Italy, where football clubs recently won the freedom to negotiate their own rights, the larger clubs are threatening to exclude some clubs by reducing the size of the league.

This lends some credence to the view, expressed by a number of Premier League officials, that an OFT victory would swiftly lead to the ten largest clubs forming a breakaway league in order to make sure they captured the largest possible share of the television revenues on offer.

To be fair, an OFT victory would not be the final word on the matter. The Premier League has

already indicated that it would be likely to mount an appeal. And if that failed, it could make a direct plea to the government to pass legislation giving sport an exemption from normal competition rules. That is the situation in the United States, where sports bodies have been granted immunity from anti-trust laws provided they make some games available on normal television.

And, in the end, this is what the case is all about. Should football, which is now a multi-billion pound business, organise itself according to the accepted rules of business? Or is the link between football clubs and their fans so fundamentally different from a normal relationship between a company and its customers as to warrant a unique approach? The argument has only just begun.

ICC reveal plan to hunt match-fixers

CRICKET
By BRIAN MCKENNA

The International Cricket Council has announced its determination to tackle some of the problems besetting international cricket by appointing a team of "sleaze-busters".

And, in another example of the ICC's new get-tough stance, world cricket's governing body has charged the Australian umpire Darrell Hair with bringing the game to disrepute following comments in his autobiography about the Sri Lankan spinner Muralitharan.

The ICC, which has abandoned plans for a Test world championship, set up a three-man panel to hunt match-fixers and admit it has a "serious problem" on its hands during its meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand. The Australians are the only nation to have been charged with bringing the game to disrepute following comments in his autobiography about the Sri Lankan spinner Muralitharan.

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French duo Julien Famarier (left) and Marc Audineau hit trouble during the 49ers World Championships in Melbourne yesterday

Ainslie leads way as British impress

SAILING
By STUART ALEXANDER in Melbourne

BRITISH YACHTSMEN and women were in top form on the world stage yesterday, notching up wins in four of the seven Olympic classes holding their World Championships here on Port Phillip Bay.

In blustery conditions that at times were skidding boats over, it was the trio of singlehanders - Ben Ainslie in the Laser, Iain Percy in the Finn and Shirley Robertson in the Europe - who were showing the way, joined by the Budgen brothers, Andy and Ian, in the Flying 55ers.

With two days to go Ainslie still holds the lead in the Laser class after posting a first and a

Barnett is in demand

Gloucestershire PLAN to make an official approach to Derbyshire's Kim Barnett, Derbyshire have agreed to ease Barnett from the last 10 years of his contract after their behind-the-scenes row.

John Sextstone, the Gloucestershire chief executive, aims to sack John Smalley, the Derbyshire secretary, for permission to make Barnett an offer.

Ienman keeps his place

TENNIS

IENMAN remains at No 7 in the world rankings despite defeat by the German qualifier Rainer Schuttler, in the 1st of the Qatar Open in Doha Sunday.

In the first official ATP list for 1999, Ienman gained a further 122 ranking points to go to 12 and move to 137 behind his Agassi. Greg Rusedski, after a disappointing first round defeat to another German, Bernd Karbacher, at 14, remains at ninth place in world rankings.

Ienman is playing in an exhibition event in Melbourne week in preparation for the Australian Open, which begins Monday. However, his compatriot, Rusedski, will be seeking ranking points at the ATP event at Sydney, where Ienman reached the final last year. Rusedski is seeded No 5 in a strong field which includes six of the world top 10 players and will meet Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten, the former French Open champion, in the first round.

Petr Korda would have to defend his Australian Open title after the furor over his positive drugs test, according to the former Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek.

Korda tested positive for the steroid mesterolone last year only to escape a ban after claiming he was unaware of what he had taken. But after an outcry sparked partly by Krajicek, the International Tennis Federation plans to challenge its appeals committee for waiving a 12-month ban for class one drug offences.

A compulsory ATP Tour meeting in Melbourne on Saturday with lines for those players who do not attend, will consider Korda's case.

"He's gutsy to come here, I would not have the nerve to prove myself so much, even if I felt I was not guilty I would try to just stay in a quiet place," Krajicek said after advancing to the second round of the Sydney event.

Sheffield steeled for rival takeover offers

ICE HOCKEY
By IAN PARKES

SHEFFIELD'S plight within the next two days.

The WISL has finalised details for an indoor football side to begin playing at the Sheffield Arena this summer and the acquisition of the Yorkshire club would bolster its position.

Having already offered around £400,000 to wipe out current debts and to help ensure Sheffield stays this season, Dadds is now believed to be reconsidering the increased bid.

Bosher in talent show

SKIING

Bosher could not match the strength of Amanda Pirie, the 18-year-old who beat her by 0.54sec with a time of 1min 28.13sec to take third place.

Pirie's sister, Tessa, the winner of the overall title in 1996 and winner of the downhill last year, showed her dominance of the field, setting the fastest time of 1min 27.22sec for the women, 0.78sec ahead of Anna Pipet of France.

Sean Langmuir, coach of the women's junior team, said: "It was an exceptional display by the juniors today. All of our preparation is beginning to produce the rewards and, with the

NEWCASTLE

HYPERION
10 Linda Jane 1.40 Malawi 2.10 Harden Glen 10 Lord Podgski (nb) 3.10 Master Nova 10 Remember Equine

INSPECTION: 7.45am
ING: Soft (Heavy in places; still traces of frost and snow), wind: NW, overcast; with rising sun; light, foggy; rain on at 5.15. In town, Metro service to Four Lane station from Newcastle railway station. Bus service from there. MISSION: Club E14 (£12 for OAPs and registered disabled); overall £2 for OAPs and registered disabled; Silver Ring £2 for OAPs and registered disabled; CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS
LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M. Revely 49-98 (25.4%), J. H. non 13-23 (20.8%), J. M. Jefferson 11-48 (24.4%), L. Lugo 6 (14.2%).
RACING JOCKEYS: P. Niven 45-146 (30.8%), R. Gentry 10-26 (4%), A. Dobbin 17-124 (3.7%), B. Storey 14-144 (8.7%).
AVOIDERS: 28-347 (43.8%).
VERIFIED FIRST TIME: None.

SV RUTTER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f
3-54 SCOTLAND LAU (7) (D) M. Moore 5 2-4 ... M. Henley (7) 11-22
5-52 VALIAN (14) L. Lugo 6 11-22 ... M. Henley (7) 11-22
6-50 BALLYMAN BOY (28) F. Murphy 6 11-22 ... M. Henley (7) 11-22
6-53 GLOBAL LEGEND (28) J. H. non 11-22 ... M. Henley (7) 11-22
6-54 HIGH PRINCE (28) F. Murphy 7 11-22 ... M. Henley (7) 11-22
6-55 AERIAL FOUNTAIN (48) G. M. Moore 6 11-22 ... M. Henley (7) 11-22
6-56 NORTHERN ACCORD (48) M. D. Moore 5 11-22 ... M. Henley (7) 11-22
6-57 PACIFIC WAR (12) J. D. Jones 8 11-22 ... M. Henley (7) 11-22
6-58 SAND DROPPED (28) B. E. E. 8 11-22 ... M. Henley (7) 11-22
6-59 LINDAJANE (48) D. Whitham 7 11-22 ... M. Henley (7) 11-22

THE INDEPENDENT

991 261 +
COMMENTARIES RESULTS
RED 971 981
973 983
ALL COURSES RESULTS
891 261 970

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
1 Derby v Coventry
2 Chelsea v Blackburn
3 Leeds v Middlesbrough
4 Leicester v Manchester United
5 Liverpool v Southampton
6 Norwich v West Bromwich
7 Tottenham v Sheffield Wed
8 Sunderland v Wigan
9 Watford v Arsenal
10 Wolves v Aston Villa
11 Barnsley v Charlton
12 Gillingham v York
13 Macclesfield v Stoke
14 Manchester City v Fulham
15 Northampton v Walsall
16 Oldham v Blackpool
17 Reading v Bristol Rovers
18 Wigan v Lincoln City
19 Wycombe v Millwall
20 Wolves v Walsley

NATIONWIDE THIRD DIVISION
1 Brentford v Huddersfield
2 Carlisle v Scunthorpe
3 Chester v Brighton
4 Darlington v Hull
5 Hartlepool v Barnet
6 Reading v Bristol Rovers
7 Wigan v Lincoln City
8 Wycombe v Millwall
9 Wolves v Walsley

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION
1 Aberdeen v Livingston
2 Clyde v Inverness CT
3 Forfar v Stirling
4 Partick v Arbroath
5 Dundee v Queen of the South

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION
1 Berwick v Stenhousemuir
2 Forfar v Stirling
3 Inverness CT v Dundee
4 Partick v Arbroath
5 Dundee v Queen of the South

Ravenhill result instils sweet hope in Irish hearts

THE MOST cheering news since England beat South Africa at Twickenham was that Ulster had beaten Stade Français at Ravenhill, Belfast, so securing a place in the final of the European Cup against Colomiers. The latter French team, by the way, do not come from a suburb of Paris, as the television commentators always say they do, but from a suburb of Toulouse.

The win in Belfast was, if anything, even more cheering than the win at Twickenham. It was equally unexpected but even more romantic. Nevertheless, my colleague Chris Hewett was right to point out yesterday that Saturday did not witness Ravenhill's finest hour, or hour-and-a-half. That was in March, 1948, when Ireland defeated Wales 6-3 (two unconverted



ALAN WATKINS

tries from J C Daly and Barney Mulvan to one from Bloddy Williams) to win the first and, so far, the only Grand Slam in the country's history.

I did not see that match but saw

the equivalent game a year later at St Helen's, Swansea, a ground which, like Ravenhill, is sadly no longer in use for international fixtures. Ireland were not in contention for the Grand Slam this time. They had been beaten by France at Lansdowne Road in their first match of the Championship. But they had gone on to beat England and Scotland.

They were stronger than they had been in the previous season. George Norton had come in at full-back, and Mick Lane and Noel Henderson into the three-quarters. Their greatest strengths remained unimpaired: Jackie Kyle and Ernie Strathearn at half-back, and a back row, perhaps Ireland's best ever (though there have been some good ones since), of Jim McKay, Des O'Brien and Jim McCarthy.

Ireland could still win the Triple Crown and that they proceeded to do, by a try from McCarthy converted by Norton to nothing from Wales, even though the latter included such notable performers as Ken Jones, Bloddy Williams, Jack Matthews, Billy Cleaver, Haydn Tanner, John Gwilliam, Ray Cale and Rees Stephens.

This was Wales' first season in white rather than navy blue shorts, but Ireland were still wearing club stockings. Since then they have won the Triple Crown twice, in 1983 and 1985, and the Championship on two further occasions, in 1961 and 1974 - both years in which Wales had, on paper, far the stronger side.

Will we see something of the same kind this year? One of the developments of this season has been

the way Irish players have reversed the journey of the old Celtic saints and returned across the Irish Sea: Jonathan Ball and Allen Clarke from Northampton, David Humphreys from London Irish and Simon Mason from Richmond, all of whom were in the Ulster team and who will, among others from the same team, be on the pencilled list for a place in the national side.

Humphreys, in particular, may solve one of Ireland's problems: getting the back line moving after solid work from the forwards. Eric Elwood, invaluable place kicker though he is, has not always managed to do this. Humphreys is as skilled a kicker as Elwood, though it was Mason who successfully performed this task on Saturday.

Eric Miller, formerly of Leicester,

is another international who has returned to his native land and, whether coincidentally or not, recovered the form he had displayed before going to South Africa with the 1997 Lions.

In some ways it is a pity that London Irish have ceased to be a true 'exiles' club. But then, so have the others. The idea of London Scottish being taken over by Bristol is a contradiction in terms, which does not prevent it from being discussed as a serious proposition.

Similarly London Irish have, under the management of Dick Best, been turned into London Southern Hemisphere and have been deservedly going up the table ever since. However, those Irish players who still retain their places, such as Conor O'Shea, Niall Woods

and Malcolm O'Kelly, can only become better players in such exalted company.

The European Cup final is to be played in Dublin. I have no doubt that the Lansdowne Road crowd will be cheering Ulster on instead of having like those Scottish football supporters who cheer whatever side happens to be playing England.

Rugby in Ireland has not been infected by the divisions in that country. At the same time, it has played no part at all in healing those divisions. Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien once told me that this was because rugby was played by the middle classes, whereas all the trouble came from the working classes. The Irish rugby team may cause the other countries some trouble this season. At least I hope so.

British League solution unveiled

ALMOST IN spite of itself, British rugby may just be inching towards a political solution cute enough to give all interested parties - the English, the Welsh, the club owners, the union administrators, the television moguls and the poor bloody infantry who actually have to play a game disfigured and discredited by three years of committee-room chicanery - most of what they want. An influential group of moderates, thought to include both the Northampton owner Keith Barwell and Terry Burwell, the operations director of the Rugby Football Union, are pushing for a two-conference system next season - a structure that would allow clubs to qualify for an elite 10-team Premiership starting in the autumn of 2000.

The strategy owes something to English cricket, which has set this summer aside for counties to compete for a place in a new first division the following year. By creating two 10-team conferences, complete with play-offs, the organisers could include all 14 Allied Dunbar Premiership One clubs, the four leading Welsh sides and, if they so wished, the two Scottish "super clubs", Edinburgh Reivers and Glasgow Caledonians. Quite simply, the top five sides from each conference would make up the following year's top flight, with the rest forming a second Premiership division.

As one Twickenham insider said yesterday, the benefits would be legion. The system would allow the English clubs to abide by the promotion and relegation promises enshrined in the Mayfair Agreement and thus extricate themselves from the bottomless pit now being dug by Bristol, who are threatening to buy their way into the big time by purchasing the financially-embarrassed London Scottish. It would also give the Welsh a strong stake in the competition and, crucially, bring to an end the damaging dispute their Union is having with Cardiff and Swansea, who have effectively severed all links by playing rebel matches with their English brethren.

What is more, the new compact competition would create sufficient elbow room for a wholesale return to European competition; something that players, spectators and all but the least enlightened boardroom bully positively crave, especially in the light of Ulster's taste of rugby heaven in last

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

weekend's cup semi-final victory over Stade Français. "The important thing is to give the clubs due notice of exactly what they are playing for, and by using the conferences next season, which will be shortened by the World Cup anyway, we could set the goalposts in concrete and never have to move them again," said one source yesterday.

Brian Baister, the RFU chairman, has set a deadline of 31 January for the completion of all negotiations and the board of English First Division Rugby, the grouping of the 14 Premiership One clubs, meets in 10 days' time.

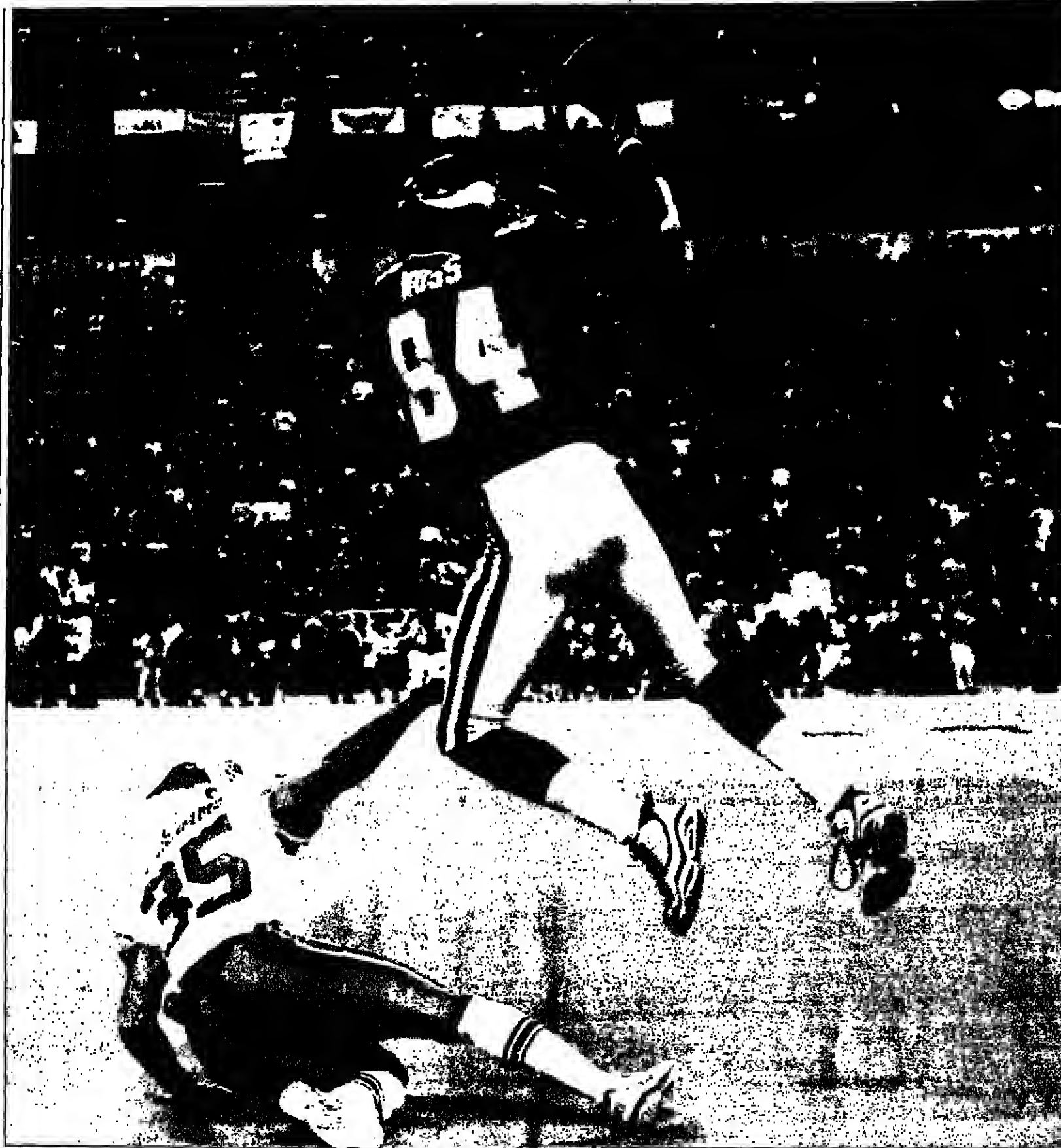
Agreement there would give the union representatives a little over a week to thrash out the final details and, given that failure to do so would leave the game in the mother of all messes, hopes are rising that common sense will finally prevail.

Burwell, whose influence over RFU policy was increased greatly as a result of last week's management reshuffle, was at pains yesterday to remove some of the sting from Bristol's brazen attempt to barge their way into Premiership One through the back door. "The integrity of the existing regulations applies: if Bristol are promoted, they will go into Premiership One," he insisted.

Meanwhile, the game rather than the politics made a brief foray into the spotlight yesterday with the draw for the last 16 of the Tetley's Bitter Cup. London Scottish, who as of last night were still in existence and, therefore, still in the competition, were drawn at home to their Stoop landlords, Harlequins.

West Hartlepool and Newcastle will fight out a derby tie in the north-east, always assuming that they do not merge in the interim, while Saracens, the holders, must travel to play renowned cup fighters Lynsey, and Gloucester entertain this year's giant-killers, Henley. Most intriguingly of all, Conor O'Shea's inspired London Irish outfit return to Northampton, the scene of their remarkable five-try Premiership romp a week ago. It should be fun.

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP First-round draw: Northampton v London Irish, Wasps v Worcester, London Scottish v Harlequins, Gloucester v Henley, West Hartlepool v Newcastle, Richmond v Esher, Leicester v Leeds, Lynsey v Saracens. (This to be played 30 or 31 January).



Randy Moss of the Vikings collects a 45-yard pass ahead of the Arizona Cardinals' Aeneas Williams in Minnesota on Sunday

Allsport

No stopping rampant Vikings

AFTER WINNING 15 of their 16 regular season contests and breaking the NFL all-time record by scoring 556 points along the way, expectations are high amongst the players, coaches and fans of the Minnesota Vikings.

Despite qualifying for four previous Super Bowls, the most recent in 1977, the Vikings have yet to taste success in America's premier sporting spectacle. Following Sunday night's 41-21 drubbing of Arizona Cardinals, however, the feeling is growing that the current Vikings are simply unstoppable.

Minnesota scored on five of their first six possessions, but of greater significance was the fact that while other teams tend to rely on one or two players for their points, the Vikings are able to generate contributions from a variety of sources.

The quarterback Randall Cunningham had a relatively

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

BY NICK HALLING

quiet day yet still completed 17 of his 27 pass attempts for 236 yards, while his touchdowns went to three different receivers - Randy Moss, Cris Carter and Andrew Glover. Running back Robert Smith gained 124 yards rushing, while his back-up Leroy Hoard scored three touchdowns. Even the little-used return specialist David Palmer was thrown into the mix, rushing twice, catching two passes, and even lining up at quarterback in place of Cunningham.

The Cardinals simply did not know where the ball was going to go on any given play. "This offensive scheme is very easy for success," Smith said. "People can be brought in and taken out. It is so dangerous because you

can't stop everything. You just can't take it all away."

Arizona's cause was also undone by their promising but inexperienced quarterback, Jake Plummer, who gave up two early interceptions, both of which were claimed by Robert Griffith. "It was a case of me being young and hyped-up, and wanting to make a big play when I should have been patient," he admitted.

However, Plummer's overall performance served to confirm that he is one of the game's rising stars. Both his and Arizona's misfortune was to run into a team seemingly destined for greatness. Only the Atlanta Falcons now stand between the Vikings and an appearance in Super Bowl XXXIII.

The likelihood is that the Denver Broncos will be there to oppose them. The Broncos were at their best in the 38-3 humbling of the Miami Dolphins and will

now meet the New York Jets, who booked their place in the final four with a hard-fought 24-21 triumph over the stubborn Jacksonville Jaguars.

The Jets held the ball for nearly 40 minutes, generating 29 first downs and converting 10 of their 14 third downs, yet still made careless mistakes which kept the Jaguars in the game.

The differences were the Jets' running back Curtis Martin, who gained 124 yards on 36 attempts, and a big day from the receiver Keyshawn Johnson, who scored two touchdowns. Though he was the first player selected in the 1995 collegiate draft, Johnson's early career was less than sparkling: dropped passes, altercations with teammates and a self-centred autobiography, fittingly entitled *Just Give Me the Damn Ball* alienating fans and the media alike.

However, the paternalistic

influence of the head coach, Bill Parcells, has seen Johnson talking less and contributing more, and he has matured into one of the best receivers in the game. His nine catches for 121 yards were essential against the Jets and he even made a defensive contribution, intercepting Jacksonville quarterback Mark Brunell's pass to end the contest.

The Washington Redskins have been sold for \$800m (£485m) to a group headed by the businessman Howard and Edward Milstein and Daniel Snyder. The sale beats the previous record of \$530m, paid last year for the Cleveland Browns.

Marty Schottenheimer quit as coach of the Kansas City Chiefs yesterday following a season in which his team was one of the NFL's biggest disappointments. The Chiefs finished the year 7-9, Schottenheimer's first losing season as a head coach.

Defiant Lindsay delays departure

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

AS EVER, reports of the imminent departure from the game of Maurice Lindsay have proved to be exaggerated.

The managing director of Super League (Europe) faced clubs yesterday amid rumours that he was on his way out in order to concentrate on his racing interests, which increased in importance when he paid over £200,000 for a string of book-making stands last month.

Lindsay is on his way out, but only on his own terms. He confirmed that he is to retire from his current position at the end of this season at the latest. But he will stay on as an unpaid non-executive director, with special responsibility for television contracts and expansion strategy. He will thus hang on to two of the most important levers of power.

Nor is it clear that any single, equally powerful, figure will emerge. In a reshuffle of responsibilities, Leeds' Gary Hetherington will become the organisation's football director, John Smith, also of Leeds, its finance director, with Chris Caisley of Bradford remaining as chairman.

Lindsay's other functions will be redistributed internally; if that process goes smoothly he could choose to bow out before the end of the season, but denies that his racing activities will make that necessary.

"I've been involved in rugby league for 20 years and I've worked for the game every day of that time," he said. "But it is a young man's game for administrators now and it is time for me to enter a new phase."

It is now clear that the new phase will not involve melting quietly into the background, even if it means creating a new role for him - the second time that has happened, following the invention of the job of managing director when Lindsay was ousted from the Rugby League in 1997.

The Super League meeting also made significant changes in the working of the salary cap. In future, clubs will be allowed to spend either 51 per cent of their income or £1m, whichever is the greater, on players' wages. If they break those limits, however, they could be deducted competition points and prize money.

The former Great Britain coach, Malcolm Reilly, has been added to the think-tank charged with raising standards in the game. Reilly, now at Huddersfield, is to sit on the League's strategic planning executive.

The coach Clive Griffiths and manager Mike Nicholas are to continue coaching the Welsh national side until the end of next year. Griffiths is director of rugby at London Welsh, but has a clause in his contract releasing him to work with the Welsh rugby league side.

TODAY'S NUMBER

£2m

The value of the three-year contract extension negotiated for Real Madrid's Bodo Illgner by his wife, Bianca. "She's the toughest player's representative I've met," the club's financial director, Juan Onieva, said. "She remained completely cold and knew exactly what she wanted."

Collins will return for dream fight

STEVE COLLINS is preparing to come out of retirement and challenge the World Boxing Council light-heavyweight champion, Roy Jones, on 17 April.

A former World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, Collins retired from the sport 18 months ago, after apparently having given up hope of ever facing the American. But the fighter nicknamed the "Celtic Warrior", along with his solicitor, Brian De La Hunt,

BOXING

were at ringside to witness Jones' two-round demolition of New York's Ricky Frazier on Saturday night in Florida.

Afterwards Jones, regarded by many boxing observers as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, immediately challenged Collins to a showdown which is expected to net both fighters the biggest pay-days of their career. Stanley Levin, a lawyer and busi-

ness advisor to Jones, said: "The date is set - 17 April. We are looking at Madison Square Garden or a venue in England or Ireland as possibilities. When Steve was with Frank Warren I tried to make the fight but couldn't - it has taken two and a half years. We still have to get the economics sorted out and will have further discussions."

On the prospect of facing Jones, 35-year-old Collins said: "I feel I have the strength to

cope with anything he could throw at me and I love the thought of taking him on as the rank outsider."

"I was not given a chance against Chris Eubank and beat him twice, and everyone said Nigel Benn had the power to finish me off but the story was the same. I don't need the money at all because I am very comfortable. It is all about finding out who is the best, and that is all I ever wanted in my career."

Duval's rise gathers pace

DAVID DUVAL continued his rise to prominence on Sunday by coasting to a nine-stroke victory in the Mercedes Championship in Kapalua, Hawaii.

The 27-year-old American shot a closing 68 in a testing breeze to complete the opening tournament of the US Tour 26 shots under par at 266. Mark O'Meara, who also closed with a 68, and Billy Mayfair, who carded 71, finished joint second on 275.

Duval's victory margin was

GOLF

the largest in nearly two years on the US PGA Tour, since Tiger Woods won the 1997 Masters by 12 strokes. He also came within two strokes of matching the tour's record low score in relation to par, set by John Huston at last year's Hawaiian Open.

"To [win] a tournament in which everyone playing knows how to win makes it so special," Duval said of the 30-man field,

which was restricted to last year's tour winners. Duval earned \$468,000 (£235,000) for his eighth win in his past 27 starts on the PGA Tour. Not since Nick Price won nine times in 1993-94 has anyone won so often in such a short period. "I hope I can keep doing this for another 10 or 15 years," Duval said.

Duval started the final round five strokes ahead of Fred Funk, who cut the margin to three shots after five holes before fading to finish joint fifth.

Gullit waiting on £4.5m Jansen

NEWCASTLE UNITED have made a final offer of £4.5m for Matt Jansen, Crystal Palace's England Under-21 striker. Gullit, the Magpies' manager, wants a swift response from Palace and is not prepared to enter an auction for the player, who could still attract late bids from Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United.

Because of Duncan Ferguson's injury, Gullit wants to sign Jansen quickly and put him straight into his team. Any delay would see Newcastle's interest cool.

Jansen, meanwhile, is said to be unhappy with reports that he had asked to be left out of the Palace team that lost at Bolton on Sunday because he had been unsettled by transfer speculation. One of Jansen's advisers insisted yesterday that the player had been told by Palace that he would not play at Bolton because a transfer deal was in the pipeline.

Arnar Gunnlaugsson, whose differences with his club appeared to have been forgotten when he was selected for Sunday's match against Palace, shocked Bolton yesterday by submitting a transfer request. He is unhappy at the club's failure to give him a new contract and refusal to consider selling him after interest from Leicester City and Nottingham Forest.

Bolton may have a ready-made replacement in Bo Hansen, a Dane who has been on trial at the Reebok Stadium. His club, Brøndby, hope to complete the sale of the 26-year-old striker this week for over £1m.

Nick Barinby may leave Everton. The striker was upset at losing his place to John O'Shea at the weekend. He could be a



'Free Gil' declares the banner as Atletico Madrid supporters show solidarity with the club's imprisoned president, Jesus Gil. Reuters

Cry freedom for president Gil

SPAIN

JESUS GIL, the president of Atletico Madrid who was gaoled last week on charges of illegally channeling funds to the Spanish club, was admitted to hospital yesterday with high blood pressure. Gil was taken to hospital in Malaga from prison. Doctors said he was suffering from high blood pressure, probably because of stress and poor diet. He was expected to remain there for at least three days.

Gil, the mayor of Marbella, was gaoled without bail on charges of embezzlement and falsifying documents related to contracts signed between the town of Marbella and Atletico Madrid. The *Primera Division* club have worn the Marbella name on the front of their shirts in recent seasons.

Gil has been accused of channeling almost £2m of Marbella funds to Atletico. His alleged crimes have not dented his popularity with the club's fans. During Sunday's 5-0 win home over Extremadura, nearly 50,000 fans took advantage of Atletico's decision to waive admission fees for the match, in an effort to boost morale and show their support for their president.

Atletico's vice-president, Lazaro Albaracín, rallied the crowd before the game and passed on Gil's appreciation for the support shown since his arrest. "There are very few reasons that would lead our president to miss a match," Albaracín said, as a giant picture of Gil was displayed on the stadium's big television screen to chants of "Freedom for Jesus Gil".

In Malaga, where Gil was being held prior to going to hospital, several hundred supporters had continued their vigil at the weekend in front of Alhaurin de la Torre prison, carrying banners calling for his release. Some had been sleeping in their cars outside the prison since Gil was arrested.

AROUND THE WORLD
EDITED BY
RUPERT METCALF

SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town. Ajax will invest almost £1m in upgrading Cape Town Spurs' facilities and the new club will adopt Ajax's training methods.

Ajax said their investment would mainly be aimed at strengthening the new club's youth department. Talented players will be offered the possibility of full-time or part-time contracts in Amsterdam. The Dutch club will have the right of first refusal on players.

Ajax already had a cooperation partnership with Seven Stars, the former club of the international striker Benedict McCarthy, who moved to Ajax in 1997. Ajax also said they were supporting the staging of the 2006 World Cup in Africa.

The former Liverpool goalkeeper, Bruce Grobbelaar, was last week offered the job of coaching Seven Stars, who are to merge with Spurs at the end of the season. Several of his former Zimbabwean international team-mates are in the squad at Stars.

CAMEROON

ROGER MILLA, the former Cameroon international striker, is depressed by the state of the game in his native country, following Fifa's decision last week to suspend its football federation and ban the national team from international competition.

"I'm disappointed. With our epic performances we managed to lift Cameroon to the status of a great football nation," said Milla, who inspired Cameroon when they reached the 1990 World Cup quarter-finals in Italy. "Now our country no longer exists, the light is going out."

Milla works in the youth department of the French club Montpellier, but makes no secret of the fact he would like to return home in some capacity. However, he added: "When I offered to help, I wasn't well received. Nothing was done to help me pull Cameroon out of the impasse."

United ready to move for Moyes

ALEX FERGUSON, the Manchester United manager, will ask Preston North End for permission to talk to David Moyes about becoming his assistant.

Ferguson has decided that the young Glaswegian, rated one of the game's brightest prospects, is the ideal replacement for Brian Kidd. The Old Trafford manager has worked on his own since Kidd left for Blackburn and thinks the time is right to recruit a new assistant. He feels the workload is too much for him alone and wants a vibrant young coach who can take training.

Moyes has earned widespread admiration as a result of Preston's challenge for promotion and their FA Cup encounter with Arsenal last week. He celebrates his first anniversary as manager today.

The workaholic manager has been embarrassed by questions about the United link, first revealed by the *Independent* in December, but would obviously be interested in the post. North End are bound to fight to keep him, however, and could demand a large compensation figure.

Ferguson has admired Moyes for years. He has seen a qualified coach from his early 20s and captained all the clubs he played for. Moyes would also have the respect of the players as he has made a successful start to his managerial career. He is also a former team-mate of David Beckham - the England midfielder was at Preston on loan in 1994-95.

Another problem for Ferguson to deal with may be the disaffection of Teddy Sheringham, who has complained of being unhappy languishing on the sidelines. The England striker has made six starts for United this season, and was not even on the bench for the win over West Ham on Sunday.

"The manager has four of us, which makes it difficult for me," he said. "I'm not sure it is even a rotation system and, to be honest, I'm not coping well with not playing regularly in the first team. A footballer wants to play football and when he doesn't get a game he is unhappy, and I am no different."

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

AFC Divisional Play-off: New York Jets 34 Jacksonville Jaguars 24. NFC Divisional Play-off: Minnesota Vikings 41 Arizona Cardinals 21. Jets away to Denver Broncos for AFC Championship; Minnesota at San Antonio for NFC Championship.

BASKETBALL

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Boston Celtics 95 Chicago Bulls 78. Portland Trail Blazers 85.

BOWLS

David Corkill from Belfast started the 14-day World Indoor Singles Championship in Hopton-on-Sea with a straight set win over his compatriot Jim Baker. Corkill took the UK title at the same venue in November and picked up where he had left off in this event. He recovered from 6-4 down in the opening set and 6-5 down in the second, winning both 7-6, and then powered through the third set 7-0.

WORLD INDOOR SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk). First round: O. Corkill (Ir) bt J. Baker (Ir) 7-6, 7-6, 7-0; H. Holt (Eng) bt T. Alcock (Eng) 7-5, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3.

BOXING

Charlie Kane from Clydebank has had to pull out of his international Boxing Organisation inter-continental welterweight title bout with the Londoner Bernard Paul after suffering an Achilles tendon problem. The fight, which was part of a triple header on 25 January in Glasgow, will now be replaced by an IBO inter-continental light-middleweight contest between Cleveland's Joe Torzillo and Jim Webb from Belfast.

CRICKET

The venues of two Tests in Pakistan's forthcoming tour of India have been changed because right-wing Hindu activists have threatened to disrupt the matches. The first Test will be in Madras, starting 28 January and the second will be in New Delhi from 4 February. Originally, the first Test was in New Delhi and the second at either Madras or Kanpur.

FOOTBALL

PR CARLSBERG WINE Fifth-round draw: Bowers United v Woodbridge Town v Camberley Town; Bedford Town v Thornton Town; Burton Albion v Luton Town; New York United v Bedford Town; Worthington United v Bedford Town; Worthington United v Bedford Town; Worthington United v Bedford Town.

ICE HOCKEY

NHL: New York Rangers 5 Tampa Bay 2; Chicago 4 Detroit 1; Boston 4 Philadelphia 3; St Louis 4 St. Louis 3; Chicago 2 (ot); Vancouver 2 Dallas 0.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Coaches are to face mandatory fines if they abuse or publicly criticise referees next season, with automatic punishments starting at £100.

GOLF

US PGA HERCULES CHAMPIONSHIP (Rancho Conejo, Hawaii). Leading Real scores (USC includes strokes): 366 D. Dowd 67 63 68 66, 275 M. O'Meara 70 68 66 68; 8 M. Mayfair 66 69 69 71, 276 V. Singh (Ir) 70 65 70 71, 277 T. Woods 69 69 67 72; J. Leonard 68 72 68 69; P. Funk 66 69 74, 278 D. Love 69 68 71 70, 280 J. Puryk 68 69 68 75, 281 F. Couples 69 68 73, 282 A. Andrade 67 70 74 71, 283 J. P. Hayes 70 71 70 72, 284 A. Jansen 69 72 74 69; J. Sturges 73 67 72, 285 S. Fife 66 70 73 76, 286 S. Applegate (Aus) 70 71 72 73; 8 Champions 70 71 69 70, 287 J. Durant 66 70 77 74; H. Huston 71 71 73, 288 C. Perry 69 73 74 72; M. Calcutt 70 71 70 77, 289 S. Jones 75 69 73 75; J. Cook 68 69 80 75; P. McDowell 72 70 78, 292 S. Simpson 71 71 74 76, 293 S. Elkington (Aus) 74 73 75 78, 294 J. Parnwell (Gwe) 69 74 77 79, 295 T. Doodds (Nam) 72 73 75 75, 296 T. Watson 74 71 73 76, 301 M. Bradley 71 78 76 76.

LEADING WORLD RANKINGS (USC includes strokes): 1 T. Woods 11,800 pts; 2 M. O'Meara 10,693; 3 D. Dowd 10,435; 4 D. Love 9,238; 5 E. Els (SA) 9,195; 6 N. Price (Zim) 8,252; 7 V. Singh (Ir) 8,165; 8 Westwood (GB) 8,035; 9 T. Alcock (Eng) 7,845; 10 F. Couples (Ir) 7,732; 11 P. McDowell 7,712; 12 J. P. Hayes (Ire) 7,677; 13 J. Leonard 6,577; 14 J. Puryk 6,551; 15 S. Elkington (Aus) 6,505; 16 D. Clarke (GB) 5,677; 17 B. Wurz 5,233; 18 M. Calcutt 5,080; 20 S. Hoch 5,044.

ICE HOCKEY

NHL: New York Rangers 5 Tampa Bay 2; Chicago 4 Detroit 1; Boston 4 Philadelphia 3; St Louis 4 St. Louis 3; Chicago 2 (ot); Vancouver 2 Dallas 0.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Coaches are to face mandatory fines if they abuse or publicly criticise referees next season, with automatic punishments starting at £100.

SAILING

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Melbourne, Aus) (after 8th day): Laser World 1 (GB) 100pts; 2 R. Schell 91; 3 M. Blackwood (Aus) 18, 68s; 4 A. Simpson 37pts; 24 G. Wright, 25. Europe World Cup (after 2 races): 1 S. Robertson (GB) 26pts; 2 S. Muller (Ir) 24; 3 M. Douglas (GB) 4; 4 G. S. J. Simpson 24; 48 N. Muller 30; 46 O. Whistley 31; 49 Gold Cup (after 2 races): 1 M. Simpson 21; 2 J. P. Hayes 19; 3 F. Loft (Gwe) 17; 4 D. Moller 17; 26 F. Stenhouse 12; 28 C. Chumbley 12; 38 L. Lee 10; 68 N. Ward 11; 69 M. World Championships (after 5 races): 1 C. Nicholson and S. Smith (Aus) 5pts; 2 E. Laidich and B. Riche (Aus) 6; 3 J. and G. Boyd (Aus) 8; 4 G. A. and I. Budge 8; 5 T. Robinson and W. 17; 18 S. Robinson and N. McDonald 18; 24 A. Richardson 26; 25 B. 18; 26 B. 18; 27 P. 27; 28 A. 28; 29 E. 29; 30 F. 30; 31 A. 31; 32 S. 32; 33 S. 33; 34 S. 34; 35 S. 35; 36 S. 36; 37 S. 37; 38 S. 38; 39 S. 39; 40 S. 40; 41 S. 41; 42 S. 42; 43 S. 43; 44 S. 44; 45 S. 45; 46 S. 46; 47 S. 47; 48 S. 48; 49 S. 49; 50 S. 50; 51 S. 51; 52 S. 52; 53 S. 53; 54 S. 54; 55 S. 55; 56 S. 56; 57 S. 57; 58 S. 58; 59 S. 59; 60 S. 60; 61 S. 61; 62 S. 62; 63 S. 63; 64 S. 64; 65 S. 65; 66 S. 66; 67 S. 67; 68 S. 68; 69 S. 69; 70 S. 70; 71 S. 71; 72 S. 72; 73 S. 73; 74 S. 74; 75 S. 75; 76 S. 76; 77 S. 77; 78 S. 78; 79 S. 79; 80 S. 80; 81 S. 81; 82 S. 82; 83 S. 83; 84 S. 84; 85 S. 85; 86 S. 86; 87 S. 87; 88 S. 88; 89 S. 89; 90 S. 90; 91 S. 91; 92 S. 92; 93 S. 93; 94 S. 94; 95 S. 95; 96 S. 96; 97 S. 97; 98 S. 98; 99 S. 99; 100 S. 100.

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CANADA	Tremblant	50%	Fresh snow	40	60	10.1 -9C Cloudy
FRANCE	Les Gets	90%	Upper runs good	40	85	10.1 -2C Unsettled
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NORWAY	Galle	100%	Good fresh cover	60	90	6.1 -18C Sunny
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SPORT

WARNE ESCAPES SLEAZE-BUSTERS P21 • COURT FIGHT FOR TV'S BIG PICTURE P19

Fairbrother steals the show

IT HAS so far eluded every other cricket-playing nation as a master plan, but that should hardly bother England. Their singular strategy of packing their one-day side with batsmen who were born long before the birth of one-day international cricket in 1971 appears to be working.

In Brisbane yesterday the side who started the triangular series as third favourites ensured their presence as the early leaders in the qualifying competition. Neither Australia nor Sri Lanka have yet won a game. Played two, won two with eight to play is a long way from turning the tables but you can detect the cloth being ruffled.

The win over Sri Lanka was another close affair. England might have won at a canter but they presumably realised who they were and made life difficult for themselves. The wily old pro who secured the victory was Neil Fairbrother, top scorer for the second consecutive match.

His 67 came from 105 balls but its intelligence and quality was reflected in one shot. As the match approached its climax England were in desperate danger of failing to reach their target of 208. Arjuna Ranatunga had once again demonstrated precisely why he is known as the General, little Napoleon, Captain Cool. Take your pick.

CRICKET

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY
in BrisbaneSri Lanka 207-7
England 208-6
England won by four wickets

He manoeuvred his close field constantly, kept a vigilant eye on his boundary sweepers and changed his bowlers with cunning. Never were the batsmen allowed to settle against a familiar pace and direction for any length of time. The England batsmen played Muttiah Muralitharan for his devious off-spin with all the aptitude shown by their Test colleagues back at The Oval in August, when the Sri Lankan took 16 wickets. That is to say, they were hopeless.

There were 14 balls left. Murali was finished but England were still 16 short. It needed a boundary and quickly, but Fairbrother had hit only one in his whole innings. At that point he decided to act. He took a little shuffle down the pitch and made perfect contact with Sanath Jayasuriya's left-arm spin. It went straight and it went for six.

The fuddy-duddies will have it that the one-day game lacks tactics and finesse, but that was

a beautifully controlled piece of cricket which came when it was most needed. England were all but home as a result and Robert Croft, who thrives on these positions, quickly slogged them there by four wickets with three balls left.

Fairbrother's international career looked finished after the World Cup in 1985. Like almost every other England player there, he had a dreadful time and his services were swiftly dispensed with. For almost three years since then he has struggled with injuries to most parts of his lower body: knee, calves and hamstrings to name but three.

But he had been one of the best of all limited-overs batsmen (the averages 37 in one-day internationals) and gradually the selectors began to take another look, deterred not at all by his 35 years. Two years and eight months since his last England game he played in Bangladesh last October and made 56. He still steals singles with the stealth of a pickpocket and, in the likely absence of Graham Thorpe, he seems a shoo-in for the World Cup squad.

Sri Lanka made it close thanks to Ranatunga, but on a pitch which had eased considerably from the mischievous affair of the previous day, they knew they ought to have made more runs. After losing Jayasuriya to the third ball of the day, when he failed to judge the pace of the pitch and was caught at slip, they recovered well for a time.

Both Marvan Atapattu, who had scored a lovely hundred against England in the Emirates Final last summer, and Romesh Kaluwitharana, made fifties. Atapattu was cultured, while Kaluwitharana's was primitive by comparison, but both ended too quickly. The most effective member of the England attack was Adam Holoake. He was lively, he found some movement and he used the slower ball wisely. This, too, is a comeback of sorts. Last year Holoake was so out of sorts with his bowling that he became a liability. The slow ball became his stock ball.

England set off in pursuit of their second win in as many days with a freedom of expression and a sense of purpose which suggested this one-day team means business. The



Neil Fairbrother smashes the ball to the boundary on the way to his match-winning innings of 67 at the Gabba yesterday

Reuters

Asbes squad says they did but never confirmed it till too late. Nick Knight and Alec Stewart were beginning to strut their singles at will when they became too cocky. Stewart called for a needless run which he went for half-heartedly, only to be run out by Muralitharan's direct throw.

It was not, naturally, Murali's only contribution. He is a player at the top of his game and he caused England immense embarrassment. He bowled Holoake through a gate which would have been wide enough to double as the entrance to the city of Rome and thoroughly bamboozled poor Mark Alleyne.

Having been preferred to Vince Wells, with Dean Headley coming into England's side, Alleyne was distinctly apprehensive. It seemed he had survived Murali when he was beaten by the spin off the last ball of the spell. Kaluwitharana, skipping to leg, whipped off the balls. Alleyne looked to have

regained his ground. The third umpire disagreed. Contentious third umpiring decisions are occurring often enough now for the International Cricket Council soon to consider having an arbitration panels at international matches.

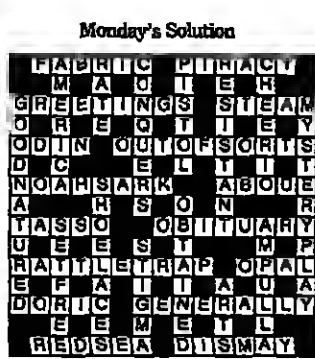
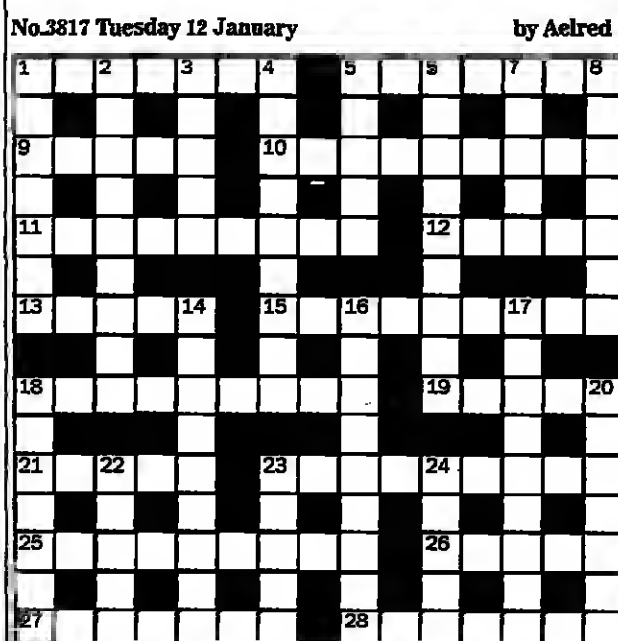
Had Sri Lanka possessed another spinner they might have won. Their manager, Ranjit Fernando, said the tail was not making enough runs, which was a familiar tale to English ears.

Fairbrother was the key. The General, his captain described him as, though Ranatunga may yet have something to say about that.

BRISBANE SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA won toss	
SRI LANKA	ENGLAND
1st Inning: 207-7 (100 min, 38.3 overs)	1st Inning: 208-6 (100 min, 38.3 overs)
2nd Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	2nd Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
3rd Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	3rd Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
4th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	4th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
5th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	5th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
6th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	6th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
7th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	7th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
8th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	8th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
9th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	9th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
10th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	10th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
11th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	11th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
12th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	12th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
13th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	13th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
14th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	14th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
15th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	15th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
16th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	16th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
17th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	17th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
18th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	18th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
19th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	19th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)
20th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)	20th Inning: 105-1 (20 min, 7.1 overs)

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Follow on foot, catching his little shark (7)
 - See one conservative with debts - very nasty (7)
 - Picture taking time to insert in credit card (5)
 - Somewhat cowardly scream - cry of pain I silence (9)
 - Percussion instrument caught the spirit (5,4)
 - Noel disturbed about right to join up (5)
 - Decay about large place where birds perch? (5)
 - Perhaps one who puts up with old wear (9)
 - Educational establishment of enlightenment? (3,6)
 - Liberal Peer upset one
- DOWN**
- I'd put up something to hide face of factor (7)
 - Passionate outburst by a right-winger of taste (9)
 - I scold, being angry (5)

- Monday's Solution**
- Dance quickly there's magic to follow it (3,6)
 - Against inverting animal membrane (5)
 - Nearing, we hear, a result difficult to predict (5,4)
 - Willow coming up so that is right (5)
 - Learned type is sunny about church (7)
 - College up in US state is dealing with applied science (9)
 - 51 entering plain will become forgetful (9)
 - Overstatement worried boy helper (9)
 - Society girl's broken lace causing disaster (7)
 - Awe produced by fear-some spectre (7)
 - Note the decayed canines? (5)
 - Stocked item that's new is a fine material (5)
 - One going round with wife, a rotter (5)

Forest hire Atkinson the troubleshooter

RON ATKINSON is back in the cut and thrust of Premiership football, charged with the task of saving Nottingham Forest from relegation. He was confirmed yesterday as Forest's manager until the end of the season.

Atkinson has signed a six-month deal with the situation to be reviewed in the summer. "Mr Atkinson will take up his appointment as manager prior to the home game against Arsenal on 16 January," a club statement said.

Atkinson - who returns to football management eight months after his sacking by Sheffield Wednesday - takes over from Dave Bassett, who was dismissed last week. He has a reputation for being a troubleshooter, but steering Forest clear of relegation could prove to be the biggest challenge of his colourful career.

Peter Shreeves, named as Atkinson's assistant, arrived at the City Ground insisting: "This is a marvellous challenge, not one to fear. Ron achieved the same at Coventry when they were in a tight situation."

"It's a massive task, it's no good me saying anything other than that I saw the team play at Coventry on Saturday, when they lost 4-0 and you could see there the confidence is low. It's a big job but I don't see the task being any more difficult than last year, and having done it once, you know what's required."

"I've worked with Ron before and I know that he gives magnificent team talks. That's what we need to lift the spirits and morale of the players. But although it's a big job, there was

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN BARNES

never any consideration of turning it down."

Forest go into the Arsenal match with 13 points from 20 games, including a run of 18 Premiership matches without a win. Saturday's defeat at Coventry, proved to be Micky Adams' only game in charge as caretaker manager.

ATKINSON THE MANAGER



Nottingham Forest	1971-74
Sheffield Wednesday	1974-78
West Bromwich Albion	1978-81
Manchester United	1981-88
West Bromwich Albion	1988-90
Sheffield Wednesday	1990-91
Nottingham Forest	1991-92
Sheffield Wednesday	1992-93
Nottingham Forest	1993-94
Sheffield Wednesday	1994-95
Nottingham Forest	1995-96
Sheffield Wednesday	1996-97
Nottingham Forest	1997-98
Sheffield Wednesday	1998-99

Atkinson began his career in football management with Kettering Town in 1971 and made his name at West Bromwich Albion before being appointed Manchester United manager in 1981. Sacked in 1988 despite two FA Cup victories, he returned to West Brom, followed by the most controversial chapter in his career, in 1988, when he took up

a coaching post in Spain at Atlético Madrid under their volatile president, Jesus Gil. Despite taking the club from near the bottom of the table to the top, his reign lasted three months before Gil replaced him with his assistant, Colin Addison.

Atkinson resumed his career with Wednesday, but walked out to take charge at Aston Villa in 1991. Things did not work out, however, and in 1995 he took over at Coventry. A year later they avoided relegation and Atkinson made way for Gordon Strachan. David Platt's departure from Wednesday then saw him return to Hillsborough and guide the Owls to Premiership safety. But in May last year, he was once again out of a job after the Wednesday board decided not to renew his contract.

His predecessor at the City Ground, Bassett, was being spoken of by another club yesterday. Wycombe are looking for a temporary manager to replace Neil Smillie, sacked yesterday because of the club's poor results and disciplinary record.

Wycombe spokesman Alan Hutchinson said: "We are desperate to stay in this league so maybe we could take on someone, like Dave Bassett, on a temporary basis until the end of the season and pay a good bonus if he keeps us up. But whoever comes in will have to consider: 'Is it a good career move?'"

Hutchinson denied that Wanderers, who have appointed former captain Terry Evans as caretaker manager, had already spoken to Bassett.

Newcastle's final offer for Jansen, page 23

MORSE

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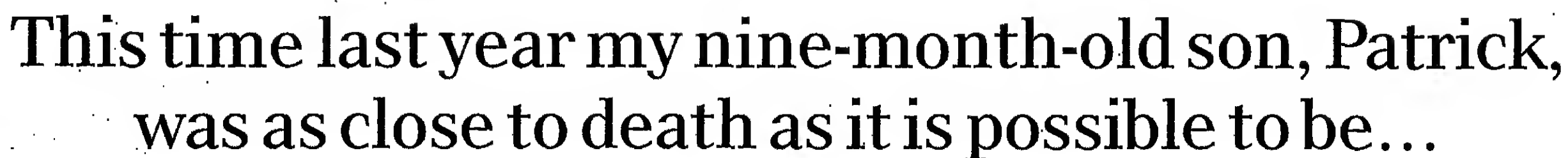
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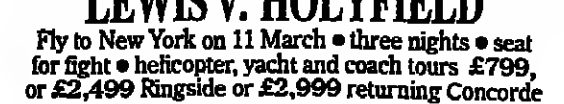


There were also changes to his limbs. The disease weakens the heart and makes it less able to push blood around the body.

Main picture: Patrick was on the brink of death while he fought off meningitis. He can now run around like other toddlers with the aid of his prosthetic leg, but life will never be the same for Frank, his wife Emma and daughter Rosie (middle) *Kallesh Lathia*

He is behaving exactly like any normal toddler - loving and lovable, mischievous, exasperating and sleep-depriving. I have

Frank Kane is news editor of 'Sunday Business'



43, Woodhurst Road, London, W3 6SS

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Labour in a spin

Sir: You state: "Whatever one thinks of the unfortunate conduct of [Robin Cook's] private life, nothing in Mrs Cook's book should count against him in public office." (Leading article, 11 January.)

Public figures, especially politicians, have brainwashed the public to believe that behaviour in public life and in private life are not related. It is false. It is easier to deceive strangers than to cheat on your nearest and dearest. Elected public figures should tell the public about skeletons in their cupboards before the elections and let the public decide. Would you hire a liar and a cheat?

HUSSAIN RUSTAM
New Malden, Surrey

Sir: Margaret Cook says that Robin sold his principles in favour of a career. Tony Blair says Robin is superb. Enough said?
JOHN NICHOLSON
Manchester

Sir: The press complains incessantly about spin-doctoring. Quite rightly. Then how would you describe your front page article "Ditch Ashdown, ministers tell Blair" (9 January)?

I quote: "John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, are to join forces in an attempt to prevent Mr Blair calling a referendum on electoral reform before the next election."

I scoured the rest of the story for quotes from these three "heavy-hitters". Not a word. Andrew Grice quotes "a source close to Mr Brown". Later in the story Colin Brown in Cape Town quotes "one Blair aide".

Who are these invisible people who must not be named? Will their lives be in danger if their identities are revealed? Will it destroy their families? Lose them their library ticket? No, of course not. These incognito sources are the very spin doctors so reviled in your editorials.

Political editors and reporters seem to spend much of their lives whirled in a vortex of gossip, rumour and disinformation. Take a lesson from the outing of Mandelson and Whelan. Reveal your sources. Some of your readers might find it intriguing to evaluate the quality of your source material. Or is that none of our business?

MICHAEL KAYE
London NW3

Sir: If, as the Prime Minister declares, doing a good job is what counts, why does he not recall Ron Davies to office? He did no harm to anyone, suffering only a momentary aberration, but had to give up a post which he filled superbly well. Fair play, please, Mr Blair.
A P LONG
Brighton, East Sussex

Roads to hell

Sir: Duff Hart-Davis's picture of rural roads as hellish deathtraps (Country Matters, 9 January) reflects the broader problem of our failure to control vehicle speeds in country and town. This puts vulnerable road users such as cyclists and child and elderly pedestrians in grave danger. The problem is three-fold.

First, the widespread attitude of car drivers and road engineers that being cocooned in two tonnes of metal gives drivers absolute rights to the road superior to vulnerable users.

Second, the failure to enforce speed limits, which means 60 per cent of drivers speed at some point on every trip. These speeding offences almost always mean driving at 40mph or more, the speed at which 90 per cent of pedestrians hit are killed.

Third, ludicrously low sentences for drivers who kill, compared to other countries. A recent analysis by our organisation showed average sentences of less than 12 months per pedestrian/cyclist death caused by driver error. Professor MICHAEL CARLEY
Chair, Edinburgh Pedestrian Action Group

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Signs of God No 2: Fr Kevin signs a mass at Port Talbot, south Wales. Signing ministers travel the country to serve deaf communicants Tim Hetherington

Jesus the rebel

Sir: The decision of the Church Advertising Network to represent Jesus as a Che Guevara-style revolutionary ("The reverend revolutionaries", 7 January) misses the point.

According to the Christian tradition the revolutionary nature of the Christ event lies not in what Jesus did but in who he was - truly God and truly human. It is because the Church and the theological establishment were so willing to cave in to the rationalistic onslaughts against orthodox Christianity that we are in the embarrassing position of trying to sell Jesus as some sort of macho revolutionary to a generation which has long abandoned faith in political revolutionaries and indeed macho culture.

The fact that Chris Bayfield can describe contemporary images of Jesus as representing him as a "bit of a poof" exposes once again the Church's inability to deal with homosexuality, which just might be linked with its failure to reflect with any seriousness upon the virgin birth, in which masculinity and indeed gender as a whole is fundamentally and revolutionarily reconfigured, with the birth of a male child from only female matter. Butchering up Jesus just undermines the mystery and revolutionary nature of the incarnation.

ELIZABETH STUART
Professor of Christian Theology
King Alfred's College
Winchester

No Year Zero

Sir: It is frequently but falsely claimed that Dionysius Exiguus failed to put a "year 0" between 1BC and AD1 because the concept of zero didn't exist in European mathematics at the time when he lived, in the sixth century of the era he invented (letter, 11 January).

In his system, the years *anno domini* (in the Year of the Lord)

were counted forwards from AD1, the year in which he calculated that Jesus was conceived and born. Subsequently the years *ante Christum* (Before Christ) were counted backwards from 1BC, the previous year. At no time was there any need or indeed room for a blank year in either direction. And later, when the zero was eventually introduced into Christendom, "AD0" would still have made no more sense than "0BC". What would be meant by "In the Year of the Lord nought", or "nought Before Christ"?

The same is true of all other eras counted from important events, such as the foundation of a city or the migration of a prophet.

So the presence or absence of zero has nothing to do with the millennium. Anyway the idea that it will mark the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus is absurd. Herod the Great died in 4BC; Dionysius Exiguus believed that Jesus was born in 1AD; the Census of Judea was held in AD6. So the second millennium should end not in neither 1999 or 2000, but in 1997 or 2001 or 2006.

The whole thing is in fact numismatic nonsense - but this is as good an excuse for a holiday as anything else.
NICOLAS WALTER
Rationalist Press Association
London N1

Sir I take it K Haggett (letter, 11 January) believes in virgin birth. For a teenage girl to get pregnant requires a partner. To hide that fact from men and boys is also wrong.
BETSY THOMPSON
Port Talbot, West Glamorgan

Sir: It is not Prince Edward's fault that he is the child of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. It is not his fault that three royal marriages have failed ahead of him. So give the lad a chance and have the decency to wish him well.

A choice of fluoride

Sir: Dr Jenny Duckworth (letter, 4 January) should understand that the UK water industry does not see its proposals as giving carte blanche to health authorities to go ahead with fluoridation as they see fit.

A key element in our call for a change in the law is full public consultation on any future schemes for the artificial fluoridation of water supplies. For too long the public has had to listen to the fluoridation debate between two powerful lobbies without taking an active part in it. We want that to change. So all we are doing is putting forward proposals which will allow the industry to fluoridate if that is what customers want. If they don't want it, then we won't do it.

PAMELA TAYLOR
Water UK
London SW1

Sir: Jenny Duckworth misconstrues the water industry's very sensible suggestions for resolving the legal impasse over water fluoridation.

At present, communities wanting fluoridation have been denied it because of confusion about who takes the final decision, and lack of clarity over water companies' legal responsibilities. There is no question of forcing

"nationwide fluoridation". No one is trying to fluoridate the whole country at a stroke - it is a question of local decision-making, following proper local consultation.

Water fluoridation is a safe, effective and cost-effective way of preventing tooth decay - a disease which is still far too common, especially among people living in socially deprived areas.

JOHN HUNT
Chief Executive
British Dental Association
London W1

Healthy scepticism

Sir: Jeremy Laurance (Health, 3 January) is perfectly entitled to hibe his children with his own money to desist from smoking.

What many find unacceptable is the intention by Government to use taxpayers' cash to wean the poorer smoker off the weed, which presumably he voluntarily pursued in the first place. The "generous bribe" to Shane Warne is being offered by the makers of a nicotine replacement product, with commercial and advertising advantage being considered alongside the intention of this sporting personality to publicly end his habit.

On the day that a BBC national survey declares the majority of the population as overweight and under-fit, will Mr Laurance now

advocate bribes from the private or public sector to resist sweets, fatty foods or alcohol, and will lycra shorts and exercise bicycles now be available by prescription?

JOHN CARLISLE
Executive Director of Public Affairs
Tobacco Manufacturers' Association
London SW1

South Bank jewel

Sir: Complete demolition on the South Bank seems extreme; at least our wonderful Royal Festival Hall stays ("South Bank buildings to be razed and rebuilt", 9 December).

Is there not a middle way? The problem has always been the ill-considered space between those 1970s buildings, where the quality of the pedestrian deck ought to make up part of the sense of public enjoyment, of festivity. In particular the draughty, mean, formless, leftover gap between the back of Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Hayward Gallery entrance presents an architectural gaffe unworthy of London and of the precinct of Peter Moro and Sir Leslie Martin's masterpiece, the Royal Festival Hall.

If the Queen Elizabeth Hall were to stay - and its interior is judged by many to have excellent acoustic and architectural qualities - and if the unlovely Hayward Gallery and its unhappy forecourt were to be rebuilt elsewhere to the west of Hungerford Bridge, the opportunity opens up to redesign a common entrance forecourt between the new British Film Centre on the south, and the rear of Queen Elizabeth Hall to the north.

With minute care to pedestrian comfort and enjoyment this urban vestibule could become a little jewel - a court in the intimate London tradition - giving access to each building on either side.
ROBIN ROCKEL
London W4

Stiff upper lips

Sir: Your report "Trains in collision at London Bridge" (9 January) said "panic occurred" on "packed commuter trains" that were "plunged into darkness". This hardly describes the accident I experienced on Friday evening.

Commuters? Your report tells us the trains were not leaving London at 5.30pm but coming in, with passengers more likely aiming for entertainment than work. Packed? Again, you say 200 passengers and 16 carriages - isn't that nearer half empty? Darkness? Our carriage, at the point of collision, stayed lit for at least an hour. Panic? I wonder what life in *The Independent's* offices is like? If children and some adults screamed as the trains collided for several seconds, nobody thereafter jumped out of the train, ran about or did anything more startling than offer a mobile phone to a stranger or carry ice and glasses from the trolley, a stiff drink presumably stowed in the pockets. As one woman nearby observed, "Well, this is a conversation starter!"
JOHN KITCHER
Rye, East Sussex

Parents on the run

Sir: I believe that Jenny and Jeff Bramley, who have disappeared with their foster-children, have the support of a majority of the public ("Love on the run", 9 January).

Mrs Bramley is described as looking depressed and worn out. If you had been "on the run" for four months, with no fixed home and two lively children to care for wouldn't you look depressed and worn out?

Mr and Mrs Bramley may lack parenting skills, but these skills are not the preserve of natural parents, who also lack such skills at the beginning of a child's life. Such skills are developed over many years. What counts equally is the love demonstrated to a child by its parent(s), and in the case of Jenny and Jeff Bramley, that love should not be doubted.

MARK PENFOLD
Crawley, West Sussex

Cot death mysteries

Sir: The dramatic headlines which heralded the report of Professor Sir Roy Meadow which was published in the *Archives of Disease in Childhood* has highlighted a very small incidence of unnatural death in babies to the detriment of thousands of parents whose babies have died a cot death ("Some 'cot deaths' may be murders", 7 January). Professor Meadow found that during a period of 18 years 42 cases reported as cot death were unnatural. In that same period there was a total of nearly 25,000 cot deaths.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths which funds research, information and support, will continue its work to find the cause of cot death and continue to offer support to the thousands of parents who, through the unfortunate use of headlines, will experience renewed grief, pain and anguish.
Rev FRON ROBINSON
Chairman
The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths
London SW1

Wowzers on parade

Sir: I would question Nick Thomas's suggestion (letter, 6 January) that the word "wowzer" is really Cornish in origin, and would suggest that some of the migrants he mentions either returned, or passed the word to their relations in letters. I first heard the word from my father when he returned from his first visit to Australia in about 1959. As I remember, he was also quite clear as to the origin of the word: an acronym derived from a banner carried by a procession in an Australian city by the Temperance Society or a similar body; the message on the banner reading "We Only Want Social Evils Remedied".
CELSDEN
Bracknell, Berkshire

Within the hollow crown, a frequently echoing sound

TIME FOR another helping of the long-lost Shakespearean play *The History of King Tony or New Labour's Lost Love*. We last saw King Tony facing the loss of his court favourite, Sir Peter Mandelson. Worse is to come before it gets better...

The scene is a beach in the *Isles of the Seychelles*. Enter King Tony, Queen Cherie and sundry bodyguards, all attired in swimming costumes, some of them bulging with pistols and mobile phones. King Tony: Alone at last, my Queen! Here on this beach.

Let's put off state affairs and take our ease! I have not dressed so scantily before. In December's late and festively frosty days! Queen: You must not overdo it, good my lord. The Tuscan tan that you acquired last summer has faded with the months, and left you pale. I will not have you looking pink and peeled. Like cloves of garlic from the dear old River Café! Have you put on your cream and general sun block?

Guard: He has, my queen. I rubbed it on just now.

Queen: Did you indeed? Then we'er do that again! Oh, never must you touch the body of the king! Tony: Come, my dear - art jealous of a bodyguard? Thinkst his touch more lovely than thine own?

Queen: I know not, neither do I care a jot. One thing alone I know: the undergrowth is full of men with cameras seeking candid shots. If they should spy your royal majesty being touched by anyone on earth 'cept me, I see the caption now: "King Tony's boyfriend. Seen rubbing his brown torso in the sun!"

Tony: I cannot credit what my ears do hear! How canst thou say that I might be a gay!

Queen: I know it all, but this as well I know, That if the public sees thee in a doubtful pose, They'll never hesitate to pull thee down.

A tiny breath of scandal grows and grows. Once open wide, the door is hard to close. Tony: Come, come, dear wife, 'tis no way to behave. We have before us sun and sand and wave.

And a pre-chilled bottle of fine chardonnay.



MILES KINGTON

'Occasionally, from time to time, sometimes... Or every half hour in the last two years!'

Is this not a very perfect Christmas Day?
Queen: If Duke Prescott were but with us now, He'd blame this sunny day on global warming.

And cast a general blight on all our party. Tony: You do him wrong. Old John is good at heart. But at his happiest when he is complaining. I love to see old Prescott's eyebrows quaking. To presage some new storm that threatens breaking.

Not for him the joys of quiet home-making. But those of railing, roaring and fist-shaking! There comes a strange ringing sound. Guard: My lord, you're wanted on the mobile phone. Tony: Ask who it is. I am off duty now.

Guard: Earl Dobson, sire. Tony: What can my Lord of Dobson want on Christmas Day?

Guard: A bed, it seems. Tony: A bed! He wants a bed?

Guard: 'Tis not for him, but for the poor and sick. A bug there is abroad in England nowadays. Known as the Sydney flu, come from down under. Which knocks out everyone who catches it. And puts them straight to bed. But Dobson says There are not beds enow. Or doctors either.

And all the nurses are ill paid as well. Tony: Oh, what a bearded misery is he! God save me from such wailing wiles! Let me have men about me who are tough! Queen: You had them once, like Mandelson and Robinson, but not quite tough enough.

Tony: Is there no other way than these two ways. Between the weeping way of bleeding hearts And the hard-hearted path of real life?

Queen: You say there is. The Third Way is it not? I seem to recall that this has passed your lips. Occasionally, from time to time, sometimes...

Or every half hour in the last two years! The third way has grown rancid in my ears! Come on! Own up! There's really no such thing! The Third Way is the fancy of a king!

Morosely, the King and Queen and bodyguards head back for the hotel. Seconds later, Iraq jets strafe the beach, just too late. When peace returns, Duke Ken of Livingstone steps from behind a palm. Livingstone: This life of Riley is all right for some. But till I am Mayor of London, I'll keep dumb. Meanwhile, remember this: the pest is yet to come!

THE INDEPENDENT

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Let out some lifers and loosen the judicial strait-jacket

RETRIBUTION IS an enduringly popular justification for punishing those who break the law. This desire for revenge, stoked by the lurid "true crime" stories evident throughout much of the media, is natural and even healthy. Every society needs to feel that it is being protected, that the dangerous and violent cannot hurt other people with impunity.

This goes some way to explain the shocking revelation contained in yesterday's Prison Reform Trust report: that English and Welsh jails contain more prisoners serving life sentences than the rest of western Europe put together, without even having a particularly high rate of violent crime compared to other European countries. The problem is getting worse, as the number of prisoners serving mandatory life sentences for murder climbs inexorably. Three times more "lifers" enter the prison system every year than leave it; the numbers of such prisoners has risen by 40 per cent in the last decade.

They are also serving longer sentences: parole boards are more reluctant than in past decades to recommend release. Average time served on life sentences has risen from 11 to 14 years since 1987, and the numbers incarcerated may begin to rise even more rapidly given the introduction of discretionary life sentences for a second violent offence in 1997.

Governments should not punish just for the sake of it. There is protection to consider, too, since while the violent are locked away in prison, they cannot do more damage. Conditions during that time need to be productive, rather than depressing and destructive. Prison at its best ought to be able to reform and educate inmates, who are as often as not trapped in a cycle of poverty and violence in which crime is seen as the natural state of affairs.

These goals are put into jeopardy by overcrowding, and the poor conditions attendant on overloaded buildings and overworked staff. Inmates' best interests, which in the long run are also the best interests of the general public, are also imperilled.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has shown that he is aware of this. He has argued that rehabilitation should be the main aim of a prison sentence, speaking of prisoners' self-esteem and the need for skills to get them into jobs. He has liberalised some of the more repressive Conservative measures, such as removing television sets from prisoners' cells. He has indicated that he will listen favourably to proposals for prison alternatives, such as community work, or "tagging" those who can serve out their sentences under supervision at home.

It is possible to imprison a much greater number of offenders, as the vast prison population in the US demonstrates; that may even serve to lower the number of



crimes, for a while. But it is much more likely that it is the economic boom in America which is causing the fall in crime rates. The evidence, contrary to what Michael Howard wanted us all to believe, is against prison.

The problem of "lifers" is more specific. It is rare for murderers, the majority of those serving life sentences, to reoffend, meaning that the Prison Reform Trust's demand - that the mandatory life sentence be lifted - can and must be met. Only then can judges take account of the mitigating, or particularly brutal, circumstances of each individual crime. The number of life prisoners is relatively small, at less than 10 per cent of the total, but a loosening of this judicial strait-jacket would be symbolic.

The prison service desperately needs such a gesture, as a sign to judges, magistrates and parole boards that the Government's view has changed since the crude Tory years of "prison works". Without it, more and more prisoners will have to build, to less and less reward. No Labour government should countenance such a situation.

Football will win if we defeat this cartel

THE OFFICE of Fair Trading will go to court today to argue that top football clubs should be forced to end their television rights deal with BSkyB and the BBC. If they are successful in showing that the top clubs have acted as a cartel - that they have distorted the market and jacked up prices to suit themselves - football as a whole will be the winner.

Fears have been expressed that new plans to redistribute money from the Premiership to lower divisions and grassroots football would be put in danger by liberalising the television market. The Football Task Force, in its first report, argued that such a redistribution was imperative if the game were to survive the scandalous selling off of millions of acres of playing fields that has marred the last few years. If the £743m paid by the TV companies for the

right to Premiership football were to fall, then reinvestment could indeed be threatened.

But there is no inherent reason why this should be so. If the clubs were to sell their games individually, it could open up viewer choice and stimulate proper competition for the rights; it will probably bring in more money, to the benefit of all. Football's problem is not the amount of cash it generates in total but the fact that, since the Premiership broke away, the rights to that money have been concentrated at the top. There will be every opportunity, even if rights are sold to individual games, to put new structures in place to redistribute that income.

Opposition to change is based not on logical economics but on the conservatism that pervades English football, from the amateurism of the Football Association to the insistence on the merits of the physical "English game". The sooner real competition is allowed, with different companies free to experiment with their coverage and to attempt to outstrip their rivals, the better.

What's the point in serving up this rather tasteless Cook book?

NO MAN is an island. From the second that Robinson Crusoe agreed to share his life with Man Friday there was a theoretical threat to his historical reputation. What were the chances that the marooned sailor would get back to civilisation, only to encounter a ghosted memoir from his erstwhile shack-sharer entitled *Friday's Tale*, detailing Crusoe's more exotic ways of coping with enforced celibacy? Crusoe was lucky, being a mostly fictional character. However, for the rest of us, total privacy ends as soon as one other person enters the front door. Someone, somewhere, always has, in the ineluctable words of President Lyndon Johnson, your pecker in his or her pocket.

And I can tell you that your habits would not make pleasant reading. There's the way that you leer at that handsome GP when you think no one's looking, that time that you hit your oldest child out of real hatred, and, above all, your deceptions. Imagine all that - and much, much more - written down, published in a book and serialised in a Sunday newspaper. Remember that primary school nightmare about being found, naked, in the cloakroom, and everyone laughing at you?

Margaret Cook, of course, had Robin's pecker in her pocket, from whence she has now taken it and is parading it around town, the poor willing object held in triumph above her head. It must be said that her book, *A Slight and Delicate Creature*, is hard reading for those who do not enjoy daytime television.

Indeed, Margaret's How to Cook

Cook book does not even seem to have been very well researched.

She claims that he has had an alcohol problem, but colleagues who probably knew his drinking habits rather better than she did - since they saw more of him - deny this. I do think that, if spouses are going to write books about one another, they need to pay attention to these little details.

Easily the most interesting revelation in last Sunday's first published extract of *A Slight and Delicate Creature* is the po-faced account of the Cooks talking about the family finances. "At the end of our 1990 summer holiday," writes Margaret, "with-out a hint of irony, 'I sat him down for our usual reckoning-up, and the net result was that he owed me money.' What? How can one half of a marriage, which has lasted two decades, be said to owe the other half money?"

Books like this tend to end up saying far more about their authors than they realise. But, even so, are they defensible? Is the moral right to reveal your own private life tempered by a duty to the private lives of those you have shared intimacy with? Margaret Cook may like to consider how she would have felt had Robin Cook been minded to pen a savage attack on his former wife for her various weirdnesses (whatever they are). Would she have thought that to be acceptable behaviour?

And then there are the third parties (usually described as "innocent victims"). Someone writing a biography of a public figure whom I have known for some time recently approached me. Many of the things



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Mrs Cook should consider how she'd have felt if Robin had penned a savage attack on her various weirdnesses

that I know about X I know because we had very close mutual friends (I should add here that X also knows many things about me; unfortunately no one is much interested). I spoke to one of these people, and she told me that what I might say could conceivably have a bad impact on her eldest daughter when it became public. So I said nothing.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, you will recall, died because of Hamlet's quarrel with Claudius. In Margaret Cook's book someone called Carlos plays a similar role. A travel guide, Carlos was fingered by Mrs Cook as having had a post-Robin romance with her. Carlos, however, has denied that this ever happened. When this was put to Margaret by *The Sunday Times* she replied airily that "Carlos denied our affair because he

is not supposed to fraternise with clients and would get into trouble from his company". Another Rosencrantz hites the dust.

By chance, tonight Hanif Kureishi is coming to do a reading at our local branch of Waterstone's. The book is *Intimacy*, a barely fictionalised account of how he left his partner, and the mother of his children, a year or so back. The Kureishi character in the book describes his spouse as a middle-class social climber, with bourgeois habits and an absence of self-knowledge. "She got herself into Cambridge," says the hero, "where she ensured that she knew the most luminous people. She is as deliberate in her friendships as in everything else." There is worse: "In bed she reads cookbooks." The woman's very capability, her common-sensical ubiquity, is used as a weapon against her. It is classic misogyny, of a type. And it is also a true portrait of a certain sort of modern woman.

Over in the States Philip Roth's latest novel, *I Married a Communist*, was seen partly as a settling of scores with his ex-wife, Claire Bloom, whom he left after 18 years together, had published an autobiography two years earlier entitled *Leaving a Doll's House*, in which she described how their relationship had fallen apart. Roth does not emerge well from Bloom's "true" story, nor is Bloom a noble character in Roth's fictional one.

Cannibalising real people who have placed their trust in you is not a new trick among novelists. One of the cruellest and funniest passages in Dickens is in *Little Dorrit*, when,

after many years apart, Arthur Cleggman meets his boyhood love, who once spurned him but is now both fat and silly. Since this meeting was closely based on a real event in Dickens's life, it is probable that the poor fat woman (and all her friends) got to read exactly what the novelist thought about her.

Art alone cannot morally justify, say, Kureishi over Cook - (although *Intimacy* is well worth revisiting now that the initial fuss is over). The truth is that we cannot learn very much about how people are if everything is private. No one would talk to Penovna about parenting problems, the specific could no longer be used to illustrate the general.

We do not have to serve the cause of journalism or art if we do not want to, or if to do so would mean betraying our friends or family. However, the fact is that we would know and understand much less if everyone were so scrupulous.

Once again we are balancing the good that may arise from knowledge against the ill that flows from disclosure. And it's here that Margaret Cook so badly fails the test.

Nothing in what she tells us universalises her experience. The book attempts little more than to be therapeutic to its author who is - when all is said and done - a pretty lousy writer. A sentence such as "At about that time Robin began to develop a problem, superficially stress-related, that made him less active in marital relations with me" belongs in an agony column - followed by the injunction to get out a bit more.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If she lived on a council estate in Sheffield she would probably be in council care."
Michael Parkinson, chat show host, on the Queen

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"In nature there are no rewards or punishments; there are consequences."
H A Armstrong, British writer

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MEMBERS OF the Iraqi Parliament called for punishing neighbouring countries allowing use of their land in mounting US-British raids against Iraq. This only indicates how like the President and his regime those representatives are. Do they not all know that the country's borders on both north and south are violated? Do they not know that they cannot even threaten a fly? When will they ever learn?
Al Aham, Egypt

THE RECENT call by the Iraqi ruler, Saddam Hussein, to the Arab peoples to rise up against their leaders was in fact intended to distract the masses in Iraq from the real problem, which is the bankruptcy of the regime. The presence of millions of Iraqis in diaspora constitutes an evidence of the repressive nature of the regime, he said. Saddam's regime has also proved that it lacks credibility with regard to the plight of more than 800

Kuwaiti nationals who have been in Iraqi prison since 1990.
Al-Ayyar, Kuwait

AS VOICES rise in Iraq rejecting all Security Council resolutions, the Arab nation has nothing but sympathy for the Iraqi people. Saddam Hussein still does not hesitate to adopt impetuous decisions, and to venture into bloody escapades

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Middle Eastern comment on the rising tensions over Iraq

Dictatorships will always create their own wars, wars that so preoccupy the people that they may allow their rulers to go unpunished, for no voice

in which the country's resources are wasted, and in which the country's very safety is endangered. There remains, however, a clear fact that as much as it needs a new leadership, Iraq needs also a new policy.
Al Gomhoureya, Egypt

Dictatorships will always create their own wars, wars that so preoccupy the people that they may allow their rulers to go unpunished, for no voice

rises higher than the sound of explosions in a war. The Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and his clique thus create the circumstances to justify an attack against the Iraqi people. What they seek is more popularity, even by engaging the country into an unwarranted fight. Accordingly, the Americans, the British and the Saddam Hussein regime seem to have conspired against Iraq and the Iraqis!
Al Akbar, Egypt

PANDORA

IS CHARLIE Whelan looking for a job in television? If so, he's certainly playing his cards right. Yesterday, Gordon Brown's former press spokesman described his own television viewing favourites for another newspaper: "The new BBC News 24 is very good. I've got Sky Sport, so I watch football. I do like soaps. *Coronation Street* is my favourite." Yes, that's the BBC. Sky and ITV all nicely plugged but, sadly, there's no mention of the Mirror Group's Live TV. Surely Charlie enjoys topless darts?

REMEMBER BACK in the Eighties when Julian Schnabel, not Damien Hirst, was the wunderkind of the ultra-cool contemporary art scene? Schnabel certainly does, which may be why the former New York waiter, who was first discovered by that mega-collector Charles Saatchi, seems less than pleased by our Damien's continuing success. In an interview with the rock-idol-turned-journalist David Bowie, in *Modern Painter* magazine, Schnabel says: "Damien Hirst owes a lot to a lot of people." More specifically: "I think he owes me plenty." It's difficult at first to see what Hirst's formaldehyde-drenched sharks owe to Schnabel's pictures, which were littered with smashed crockery. However, Pandora recalls that Saatchi started investing in Hirst's masterpieces not long after he decided to sell off many of his Schnabel paintings, so perhaps that's what the artist means by "owes me plenty". However, in another span of spite, Schnabel adds: "I can't be only responsible for the bad artists! I mean, I think he owes plenty to Jeff Koons too."

LEONARDO DICAPRIO has now arrived on location in Phuket, Thailand to film *The Beach*, based on Alex Gardner's best-selling novel about a commune of hippie beach bums. However, rather than sleeping on the sand, DiCaprio has taken over a whole floor of the luxury Panwa hotel, according to a local Thai newspaper. In addition to these spacious digs and his \$20m (£12m) salary for the flick, the Twentieth Century Fox studio, owned by Murdoch, is also providing Leo with the use of his own large yacht. Not bad treatment, especially

when compared with the accommodation status of Rupert Murdoch himself, who, sources tell Pandora, is currently shopping for a loft in dreary lower Manhattan.

MEANWHILE, THE non-Murdoch owned New York tabloid *Daily News* has set itself the task of keeping track of the romantic interests of Anna Murdoch, the billionaire's estranged wife. Having floated the names of the producer David Niven Jr and the property magnate Marshall Rose, the paper's latest candidate is a wealthy, 72-year-old New York widower, named William Mann, who would only say: "I'm not going to comment on that. Thank you very much."

HERE'S A collector's item Pandora's readers are certain to covet! It's a solid, 24-carat gold CD of Frank Sinatra singing live in a suburban Chicago dive called the Villa Venice, in 1962, together with his rat pack mates Sammy Davis Jr and Dean Martin. Entitled *The Summit*, it is being released by a company owned by the Sinatra family called Artanis Entertainment Group. Guess what Artanis spells backwards?

YOU MAY have hated the talking Furby toys, but what about a toy talk-show host doll - especially one you can stick pins in? Yes, it's the "Jerry Stinger" Humblebee Meanie toy, based on Jerry Springer, the trailer-trash culture hero (pictured), one of a series of new US products called "celebrity bean bags". Other dolls in the series include the Moodoona and the Quack Nicholson. "I was hoping for a Nobel Peace Prize, but I'll settle for this," Springer told a reporter. After the way he slagged her off this week, surely Fergie would be in the market for a Michael Parkinson hog bag.



Coming out as a Mondeo man



TERENCE BLACKER

For the new aristocrats in the media this nice car, slightly lacking in poke, represents 'them out there'

ONE SHOULD, I suppose, become inured to the occasional sneering personal reference in the public prints. Having survived being described as a sexist snob on the letters page of this newspaper and being held responsible for a load of tosh on the books page of the *Times Educational Supplement*, I had come to believe that I could shrug off the resentful, small-minded, humourless, sub-literate carping of so-called "readers" and "critics". Tish, mo? I mean, honestly.

All the same, a news report last week did cause me the merest wince of irritation. "Bus lanes alone will not shift Mondeo man" read the headlines. According to Richard Knowles of Salford University, co-operation between bus companies and local authorities - an arrangement inevitably known as a "Quality Partnership" - had made little difference to the driving habits of the ordinary motorist, with the exception of those using the Super Route 66 in Ipswich, where even Mondeo men were said to be now using the local bus service.

As it happens, I have probably, while visiting my dentist or travel-

ling to *Ferry Cross the Waveney*, the excellent new production from the Eastern Angles Theatre Company, got my kicks on Ipswich's Super Route 66 but, if I did, it was in my lovely Starburst-coloured Mondeo.

Owners of more socially acceptable cars - your BMW, your Saab, your dinky little Clio - may have been taking the environmentally responsible Park and Ride option

but, if so, I can't say I noticed. Of course, the point that the transport guru from Salford was making was essentially the same as that of the eminent feminist commentator Joan Smith who, in an essay on sexual desire, remarked, "Never trust a man in a Mondeo."

This nice, ordinary car, slightly lacking in poke through third and fourth gears but otherwise entirely harmless, suggests for all civilised commentators a hidebound, conventional type in a Cecil Gee suit, saying "Can I get back to you on that one, Keith?" into a mobile phone and steadfastly refusing to contribute to Quality Partnerships. The fact that my Mondeo - dents fore and aft, a box of undelivered apples and whiffy football kit in the boot, a Willie Nelson cassette in the tape machine - may be as resolutely individual as any other car is beside the point. For the new aristocrats in the media, it's not our kind of car; it represents them out there.

It's not difficult to see why we Mondeo men are subject to patronising sneers. Whereas, during the Eighties, the Thatcherite mindset approved of the ducking-and-diving

entrepreneur for whom greed and enrichment was not only a personal imperative but a social responsibility, the new Establishment is the media itself: journalists, celebrity presenters and, above all, publicists.

The time has passed when public relations was regarded as a relatively humble skill, subsidiary to, and dependent upon, professions in which people really produced something. Suddenly, the messenger has become the message.

So when Charlie Whelan allegedly became involved in a bit of PR skulduggery, his subsequent resignation was treated with as much seriousness as the departure of a minister. Or when his boss the Chancellor is revealed to be dating a PR artiste, as is Prince Edward, she is regarded as the ideal consort in an age when the fact of publicity is regarded as more important than what is being publicised.

Because, in stark contrast to the times when there was a healthy divide between those who acted in the political arena and those who commented upon them, the media, the Government and even the Royal Family are now difficult to tell apart.

There is little surprise when previously spiky individualists such as Robert Harris and Peter Hennessy pen tearfully effusive public eulogies to their pals Mandelson and Whelan, because they are all part of the same new Establishment. Similarly, the Windsor family have managed at last to become media friendly through the simple expedient of becoming part of the media.

No wonder that journalists and publicists now behave with unprecedented arrogance, pronouncing loftily upon matters of morality, removing or promoting public figures at will.

Who could be surprised that satirists are unable to get a fix upon the new Government, turning out mild, predictable and grindingly unfunny versions of our new masters? They have found that, once they have laughed at John Prescott's accent and Cook's and Dobson's funny little beards, ministers are simply too similar to themselves to be funny.

Perhaps this is another area of Quality Partnership, but, for us Mondeo men on the outside, it looks creepy and slightly dangerous.

Should Mr Blair really ask us to forget about the scandals?



ANDREW GRICE

There is a growing feeling that ministers are not delivering on promises to improve public services

AS MPS returned from their Christmas break yesterday, even those in different parties could agree on one thing: we are back to real politics. The Blair honeymoon, whose date has often been predicted in the past 20 months, is finally over.

But as Tony Blair tries to shrug off his "Black Christmas" by getting back to business, he is in danger of jumping from one hole into another. His fight-back strategy is to turn the media spotlight away from personal allies and back to policies. Gordon Brown, in the first of what Downing Street billed as a series of keynote speeches by Cabinet ministers, proclaimed that 1999 will be "the year of delivery".

Of course, Blair can be forgiven for thinking that anything is better than the media focusing on the aftermath of the Peter Mandelson affair or the enthralls of Robin Cook's first marriage. And it is true that the divisions at the heart of the Government are much more about personal ambition than about ideology, despite John Prescott's serious doubts about Blair's desire for ever closer union with the Liberal Democrats and the Prime Minister's apparent attempt to rehabilitate Mandelson when the ink on his resignation letter is barely dry.

The problem for the Government is that, by switching the focus back to education, health and the economy, ministers may be storing up bigger long-term problems by fuelling expectations they cannot deliver. There is already growing public feeling that Blair is not delivering the improved public services on which he won the 1997 election. Couple that with a worsening economy, as evidenced by yesterday's gloomy figures on manufacturing, and it makes an explosive cocktail. Labour's private polling, which Blair continued to study in micro-

scopic detail even after winning his landslide, reveals the Government's potential Achilles heel, even though it remains way ahead of the Tories in the race for the next election.

It shows that the gloss surrounding the announcement of 2400 extra for health and education last summer has worn off. This has been replaced by people's own experiences; and they feel increasingly that the ministerial rhetoric is not measuring up to the problems in our hospitals and schools. It is no coincidence that, according to Labour's surveys, there has been a sharp increase since last July in the number of people who believe the Government is "getting too arrogant and out of touch" and "getting sleazy".

Perhaps the most chilling section of the Labour polling now in Mr Blair's in-tray is the one about how voters remember the Tories' time in office: the top five memories are "neglect of health and education", "sleaze", "out of touch", "spills and divisions" and "boom and bust". With the exception of "boom and bust", many voters may feel the four

other slogans apply to the present Government after the turmoil of the past three weeks. And as the economy worsens this year, even Labour's hard-won economic credentials may be in jeopardy.

The current crisis in the hospitals is potentially even more damaging. The voters are seeing the reality with their own eyes; one friend of mine was appalled to hear a hospital registrar as he struggled to cope with patients waiting for treatment on trolleys, berating the Government's obsession with cutting waiting lists (a key election pledge), at the expense of short-term pressures such as the flu outbreak.

Of course, ministers will argue that the Labour polling strengthens their resolve to tackle what Tony Benn calls "the real issues", and hope they will at least get some credit for tackling the deep-seated problems in health and education. But the option of blaming the inheritance on the Tories is no longer viable. The public wants to see real evidence of sustained improvements to public services, not to have their expectations raised by ministers making promises they cannot keep.

Blair is almost certainly right that, in the long run, the voters will care much more about bread-and-butter issues than about Cook's private life. What worries him more is that, engraved on John Major's political tombstone - and in Blair's own mind - are the words: "Divided parties lose elections".

Since Labour won power, its internal divisions have not really registered with the voters - until the past three weeks. This is largely because they see Blair as a strong leader who keeps his party in check (in sharp contrast with Major in the run-up to the 1997 election). This is why Blair does not really mind being portrayed as a "control freak".



Robin Cook, in the spotlight over his failed marriage

Although the label is causing real worries inside his party (which should not be underestimated), control freakery evidently plays pretty well with Middle England, where it is seen as strong leadership.

Similarly, Mr Blair is hilling this week's measures on welfare reform and tackling crime as "tough" and even "authoritarian". During his visit to South Africa, he was happy to tell journalists that he feared a backbench rebellion over social security changes, even though there is little immediate sign of one. Anything to get the media to write about policies rather than personalities. "What the hell could we focus on apart from public services and our reforms?" one exasperated Blairite asked me yesterday, admitting that the danger signals on the NHS were deeply worrying.

Although Downing Street denies that this week's flurry of ministerial speeches amounts to a relaunch of the Government, that is effectively what Blair is doing (indeed, many of the "new policies" being unveiled have been launched before). As

such, it has eerie echoes of the fight-backs ordered by Major, which usually hit the buffers pretty quickly.

The only comfort for Mr Blair is that the Tories have not yet reaped any benefit from the Government's troubles; the only beneficiaries are the Lib Dems, no doubt to Prescott's horror. My guess is that a huge proportion of Labour's still sky-high opinion poll ratings is due to Blair's enduring personal popularity. At the same time, the Tories are suffering from the perception of William Hague as a weak leader of a still divided party, as well as those unhappy memories of their 18 years in office.

But Blair knows that Hague and his party may not remain devalued currency for ever. Labour strategists fear that the growing disillusionment with the Government will take its toll on Blair and his party.

They are right to be worried. Blair argues that he could not be expected to put right the problems of the past 18 years in just 18 months. But the voters will soon want some hard evidence that things really are getting better.

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Introducing the web workstyle

IT'S INTERESTING to consider that two decades ago, when people thought about the future, they had a very different view. They saw the US as falling behind. Everybody looked at the industrial model, particularly in Japan, and its willingness to invest very long term, and its larger innovations, and thought that these companies would lead the way in the computer industry. In fact, much the opposite took place. Today we can say with-out a doubt that the US is at the centre of the information and medical technology that's really changing the world.

Now, why is this? Perhaps the humility that we had 20 years ago, and going back and re-examining how we did things, was part of it. But I would say even more central was the attitude toward risk, and toward free markets.

We see incredible levels of investment in this country in new and unproven things. And even though some of these Internet valuations will certainly be proven to be excessive, the basic idea of accelerating the investment into this new area is really a

fantastic thing. We're also seeing proof of the importance of collaboration between businesses and the great universities in this country. I believe that the world of information technology will continue to surprise people.

There are several reasons for this. The first is that exponential improvement just is unknown in any other endeavour. Having something get twice as good again, again, and again moves it past absolute limits.

The ability to have kids make animated movies and store them and edit them, which today would require a workstation worth hundreds of thousands of dollars - that will certainly be a standard feature of a computer that costs only a few hundred dollars. The fact that computers will be able to understand speech: the fact that they'll be able to speak to you; the fact that you'll be able to hand-write on a tablet that has resolution as good as paper and those notes will be recorded and transmitted in the way that you want them to be - those things change how we relate to the device very, very dramatically.



PODIUM

BILL GATES
From a speech given by the chairman of Microsoft to the Manhattan Institute, a New York think-tank

And every one of those things will happen within the next decade.

The other reason that people are still underestimating the impact is that, as this device gets to critical mass, as it's broadly accepted, then we'll start to take even more advantage of it. It will become the medium for business and communication. In schools today textbooks are designed to be on paper. The investment

that the textbook industry makes is totally assuming that form factor. But some time in the next decade that will shift, and all the curriculum will be designed to help the teacher in a digital fashion.

And the world of business is still very, very paper-oriented. I want to introduce a new term, which is the Web workstyle. This is the idea of a new style of work that's utterly dependent on using digital information. It's quite different from the way people work right now. Although they may use personal computers to create documents, edit documents and annotate documents, and they may use e-mail to stay in touch, most of the information they work with ends up on paper.

If they want to see a sales report, if they want to send a bill to another company, if they want to go to a meeting and have something to hand out to people, that is done totally in paper. And what it means is that there's an incredible overhead. If you get one of those bits of paper and you don't understand it, if you disagree with it, then you're calling up somebody who has to find somebody to look into that. If you want to

take that information - say it's your phone bill - and you want to relate it to various cost centres you have in the company, you have to re-enter the data and classify the data. Well, all of that will go away. It will simply be a series of bits that are transmitted and then automatically categorised. And there will be rules that you set up that can trigger and say: "Is this unusually large?" Is it different from what I would have expected? And notify somebody who will pay attention to that.

This ability to collaborate in a digital form will change more than the efficiency of business. Efficiency is an amazing thing, and it's not just companies that you think of as being in the information business.

Even companies you think of as manufacturers devote more money to their information workers than they do to their factory workers. And those workers are doing product design; they're doing things that will be dramatically better when done in a digital fashion. This Web workstyle will change the boundaries of business. So, let's keep innovating.

Corruption's bad for your wealth



HAMISH MCRAE

The scale of fraud in Brussels has swept away complacency about the probity of EU officials

WHY IS the European Commission so corrupt? There may be a mass sackings this week of the 20 Brussels commissioners, if the MEPs vote by a two-thirds majority on Thursday in favour of a no-confidence motion. Whether or not they do, the new attention on the scale of fraud and corruption in Brussels has suddenly swept away any complacency about the probity of the European Union's civil servants.

But why on earth should this have happened? Why should the ethical standards be so much lower in Brussels than they are, for example, in Whitehall? Anti-Europeans will declare that fraud is just an inevitable part of the whole European Union rip-off - that it is part of the European culture to cheat - but that sort of response does not really carry much credibility. There must be something structurally wrong, too, for Europe is, by global standards, a relatively uncorrupt continent.

I have just been looking at the latest figures compiled by Transparency International, the Berlin-based pressure group that seeks to identify corruption and tackle it. The interesting thing here is that most European Union countries come towards the top of the corruption league - or, more properly, the corruption perception league. Transparency measures how corrupt people feel their countries are, rather than calculating an absolute level of dishonesty. Denmark, Finland and Sweden are seen as relatively uncorrupt, with the Netherlands, the UK and Luxembourg not far behind. At the bottom of the EU league comes Italy, followed by Greece, Belgium, Spain and France.

But even the most determinedly corrupt members of the EU pale into insignificance beside some non-European nations. If you want corruption delivered in true industrial quantities, go to the bottom five in the league: Cameroon, Paraguay, Honduras, Nigeria and Tanzania. In Cameroon they regard their place in pole position with a certain bravado. In a survey of 800 people in Yaoundé and Douala, no fewer than 77 per cent of the people questioned agreed that their country was the most corrupt in the world.



The central market in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, perceived to be the world's most corrupt country

Rea Parry/Panos

I wonder what the hurgers of Brussels would say if asked a similar question about the commission. It is notable that a Spaniard and a French commissioner are under the darkest clouds, while the chief whistle-blower was a Dutchman. However, since even the Finnish and Swedish commissioners are being criticised too, I don't think we can attribute a propensity to be perceived as corrupt to national characteristics, however tempting that may seem. Besides, it was an Italian MEP, Rinaldo Ossola, who carried out the report on corruption which was adopted by the European Parliament last October. So perceived corruption in Europe cannot be attributed to individual nationalities. There must be something wrong with the system.

Just what that is, will gradually emerge over the next few months. Do not expect any simple, single structural failure to be revealed. Instead, what will probably come out will be a combination of detailed auditing failures and evidence that a culture of "other people's money" has been allowed to develop. I would be less concerned about the auditing failures than the cultural failure, for the former is much easier to correct. You just beef up the auditing system. The more deep-seated problem is that EU funds,

taken indirectly from a taxpayer in a country hundreds of miles away, do not need to be spent with the same care as national funds. Step back a moment and consider the EU's financial probity not as an ethical or moral issue, but as an economic one. There is a tacit assumption among many people in the business community that a modest level of corruption does not really matter too much.

We had an extreme example in London a few years ago, with the Lloyd's insurance market, where corruption was so deep-rooted that the people involved did not even realise that they were doing anything wrong. More recently, some people have tended to ignore evidence of corruption among the

East Asian tigers, explaining it away on the grounds that it was part and parcel of economic systems that delivered rapid growth.

One of the side-effects of the East Asian economic crisis has been a re-thinking of the costs of corruption, in particular a focus on the weakness of "crony capitalism". That is a start. Far from encouraging a better economic performance, all the aspects of crony capitalism - government contracts to friends of the regime, close links between lending banks and borrowing companies and so on - have been shown to inhibit it. The East Asian system resulted in the wrong investment decisions and the wrong allocation of savings, and the countries ended up poorer as a result.

Now look at Europe. The European economy occupies part of the top portion of the world economy. Of course there are fine distinctions to be made between different countries, but, taken as a whole, Western European companies deliver high levels of quality in both their products and their services - similar to those of North America, Japan, Australia and the other parts of the developed world.

But we are in a world where it is hard for the commercial sector of any developed country, or any developed region, to maintain much of an advantage over another. Any good ideas are quickly copied and applied elsewhere. As a result, the one thing that countries will increasingly compete in is the quality, efficiency - and, crucially, honesty - of the public services.

So corruption in Europe, and, in particular, at its core in Brussels, will become a grave economic disadvantage, hobbling European countries in their competition with other parts of the developed world. Look at the table. Rich countries are honest; poor countries are corrupt. Corruption impoverishes, for it gets in the way of an efficient economy. If the European Commission wastes hundreds of millions of euros, as its auditors believe, that is hitting the European economy

with a double whammy. First, those resources are not available for bettering the lives of European people - they could have gone into better pensions, or allowed a higher standard of living. Second, the waste encourages misallocation of resources, making the economy less responsive to people's needs and so less competitive.

I don't think European people realise how tough it will be to improve living standards over the next generation, given the adverse demographic headwind blowing across the developed world. We are going, in one generation, from four workers for every pensioner to a situation where there will be two. Productivity will continue to rise, but most of the gains will be absorbed in caring for the old. In a situation like that, corruption at the heart of the EU becomes an even less tolerable burden.

The structure of the European bureaucracy has developed in a world of plenty: relatively rapid economic growth, favourable demographics, increased economies of scale. So a bit of corruption could be absorbed in the general increase in wealth. Those conditions cannot be relied on in the future. Leave aside the moral case on corruption: the economic imperative is for the commission to clean up its act.

RIGHT OF REPLY

LIZ DAVIES



A member of Labour's National Executive responds to a recent article by Tony Blair

I DO not recognise the picture that Tony Blair draws of the Labour Party. Far from being "more ideologically united than at any time", Labour is divided over basic values.

The Prime Minister boasts of a record fall in NHS waiting lists, but the recent fall has only cut lists to the level they were at when Labour took over from the Tories. Frank Dobson has honestly acknowledged that the NHS is "in crisis". That crisis cannot be remedied unless the Government improves public sector pay and rewards our nurses, teachers and public servants as they deserve.

In contrast to the Government's miserly approach to public services is its embrace of big business. From Bernie Ecclestone to Geoffrey Robinson, from the Millennium Dome to the private finance initiative in hospitals and schools, the line between public interest and private profit is being dangerously blurred.

While the big corporations are mollycoddled with tax cuts and government appointments, the poor are offered "tough love". For Labour members, the party's raison d'être is to combat poverty and inequality. But the Government's welfare reform plans seem more about trying to reform the poor out of poverty than reforming our economic system to eliminate poverty.

Governments in France and Germany demonstrate there is an alternative. Fiscal and monetary conservatism are outdated shibboleths. The need of the hour is renewed intervention in the economy.

Finally, many party members are shocked by Britain's participation in the bombing of Iraq. The Government's policy of punishing the people of Iraq for the crimes of Saddam Hussein is illogical and cruel and has undermined our commitment to an ethical foreign policy.

Of transgenic mice and men

THE ONLY quarrel I have with this book concerns its title. The innocent reader is led to expect something along the lines of *The Philadelphia Story* or *LA Confidential*. Somehow, you know it will be mis-shelved under "travel" or "crime".

Although it could fairly be described as a thriller, *The Baltimore Case* belongs in the history of science section. It is, I would hazard, among the best works in that select genre and certainly one of the more accessible. Daniel Kevles is the author of the standard history of American physics, and of the eugenics movement from its utopian 19th-century origins to the Nazi death camps. He likes challenging topics.

In his latest book, Kevles offers a narrative on many levels. The main line traces the rise and fall and rise of

TUESDAY BOOK

THE BALTIMORE CASE: A TRIAL OF SCIENCE, POLITICS AND CHARACTER
BY DANIEL J KEVLES, W W NORTON, £21

David Baltimore. The wunderkind of American biology, Baltimore (the son of a New York garment worker) won a Nobel Prize in 1975, aged 37, for demonstrating how retroviruses work. It is one of Kevles' many virtues that he patiently explains the distinction between such things as RNA (the basis of retroviruses) and DNA, the genetic material of ordinary viruses.

As George Eliot put it in describing her brilliant young scientist, Lydgate, Baltimore the laureate "had his 35

years ahead of him". The future glistened. His subject was hot, and so was he. His work on retroviruses connected with the huge research campaign launched in the early Eighties to find a remedy for AIDS, and with the Human Genome Project: "the code of codes". With the collapse of SDI - "Star Wars" - and the Texas-based particle accelerator (both victims of the end of the Cold War), biology became the biggest science.

Baltimore rose like a multi-stage rocket. He dropped his professorship at MIT to become director of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. In 1989, he became president of Rockefeller University in New York. As the name suggests, this is not an institution lacking in financial resources. Aged only 50, Baltimore was at the top of science's slippery pole.

What followed was a mixture of Sophocles and Kafka. It began with one of the little dishonesties of American academic life: "honorary" authorship. If a scientist publishes a paper, senior colleagues in the laboratory (who may have contributed little or nothing) routinely claim part-authorship. One of Baltimore's team, Theresa Iminishi-Kari, had conducted some fascinating research on transgenic mice in the mid-Eighties. The paper was published in the premier biology journal, *Cell*, with Baltimore cited as (passive) co-author.

A junior member of the team, Margaret O'Toole, found that she could not reproduce Iminishi-Kari's results. O'Toole was feisty, Iminishi-Kari stubborn and inarticulate (English is her



The Nobel laureate David Baltimore

"fifth language"). Baltimore did not suffer fools gladly. It could all have been worked out at the lab level, but it wasn't. What it came down to, as it often does in science, was ambiguous results started up a bit for publication. They all do it, and always have.

By 1989 the dispute was out of control. O'Toole lost her position at Rockefeller. The dreaded words "fraud" and "whistle-blower" were bruited. Huge sums of federal money have gone into American science, and Congress has become very suspicious. A subcommittee headed by a politician on the make was directed to investigate. The press scented a story. Margaret O'Toole was attractive martyr material. *The New York Times* ran a story headlined "For Challenging her Boss's Data, a Scientist lost her Job and Home" and an editorial entitled "A Scientific Watergate".

Baltimore was forced to resign from his presidency in 1991. His views on public affairs were suddenly of no interest to the media and he was shut out of science policy-making circles. The wunderkind was a non-person. The story has a moderately happy ending. In 1995, Iminishi-Kari was ex-

operated - but had lost so much ground that her career was effectively over. O'Toole (who had been used as a cat's paw by the politicians) was out of science altogether. Baltimore, similarly exonerated, came out best. In 1997, he was appointed president of the California Institute of Technology, another top job. An older (he is now 60) and wiser man, he has said little publicly about the affair that came close to ruining him.

The Baltimore Case is fascinating as a human interest story. It is a useful way of finding out what is going in the cutting-edge life sciences. It is a timely indictment of the irresponsibility of politicians and press when they pronounce on science. And it's a book that does what books do best, and what the press and television often do badly: namely, it weighs up all the evidence on both sides before coming to a wise and judicious conclusion. In all the millions of words expended on the Baltimore case, Kevles' are the last and most convincing.

JOHN SUTHERLAND

The reviewer is professor of English at University College, London

TUESDAY POEM

DEPENDANTS
BY PAUL FARLEY

How good we are for each other, walking through
a land of silence and darkness. You
open doors for me, I answer the phone for you.

I play jungle loud. You read with the light on.
Beautiful. The curve of your cheekbone,
explosive vowels, exact use of cologne.

What are you thinking? I ask in a language of touch
unique to us. You tap my palm *nothing much*.
At stations we compete senses, see which

comes first - light in the tunnel, whiplash down the rail.
I kick your shins when we go out for meals.
You dab my lips. I finger yours like Braille.

Paul Farley's *The Boy from the Chemist is Here to See You* (Picador, £6.99) is shortlisted for the Whitbread Poetry Award, announced today at 10.20pm on BBC2

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The Marquess of Bristol

"I HAVE a depressive illness," Lord Bristol said in 1989. "My father had manic depressions and my mother had them. I feel I am in a sort of grey, rainy late afternoon and nothing in the house has any features at all. There are no objects that are beautiful. Trouble is, I've gone too far down the road now. If you take coke for 10 years your metabolism alters. But it is very difficult to justify because, to the public, cocaine is simply a Class A drug and bad."

The Marquess of Bristol had been dying in public for many years. At first his audience was amused – they gathered in Deauville for grand house parties held at his expense; they shot grouse at Ickworth, his stately home in Suffolk; they rode around New York in his chauffeur-driven car, a dark brown Mercedes Pulman that had once belonged to Rod Stewart. They laughed when he said he had once wanted to marry Christina Onassis ("Love her? God no! I wanted to run Olympic") and, having landed his monogrammed helicopter, staggered out of the cockpit with cocaine all over his face. They said he wasn't that bad really, quite funny actually, and took his drugs.

Thanatoid flamboyance commanded morbid respect until it became apparent that to be a member of Bristol's entourage was to experience the throes of his disorders. During a holiday in a villa in Porto Ercole the property developer Andy Pierce collapsed and died after a heavy drinking bout. Francesca Fisher, to whom the marquess was briefly married, was driven halfway over a cliff in the Bentley and left hanging there like the last scene of *The Italian Job*; the Peugeot belonging to an acquaintance was pulverised, on purpose, when Bristol drove his Cherokee Chief jeep into it.

Perivigiled lordly decadence, the shadow of aristocracy in the Jungian sense, darkened the life of a man who wore his crest on his chest but was not protected by it. His was the profligacy that exiled Rochester, the privileged hedonism that, in the history of England's landed families, has always caused shame, bankruptcy and death. When asked if prison had changed him, the seventh Marquess said, "Christ no! What's it supposed to do anyway? Sure, it might work for stupid people but it's designed for the lower classes really isn't it?"

At various times in his life he was estimated to be worth between £1m and £30m but, in the end, he was just a junkie – scabrous, pathetic, helpless, desperate – in and out of court, almost penniless, usually friendless.

"John confuses money with character," his friend Nick Somerville once said. "He thinks because he is richer than people he must be bet-

ter than them, but he loathes people who are richer than him." He was happiest, according to Somerville, when, as a young man existing on a small allowance, he lived in a one-bedroom flat and ran a company that sold hand-built Bentleys. Then there was potential for, according to Somerville, Bristol had "one of the most lucid and precise business minds I have ever come across".

There is something awe-inspiring about Bristol's criminal record, speaking as it does of monomania fuelled by indomitable compulsion unconstrained by either rehabilitation or remorse. In 1983, following the tapping of Frances Mullin's telephone, he was arrested for his alleged part in a New York-based conspiracy to import \$4m worth of heroin and cocaine. He hired Thomas Puccio, who had represented Claus von Bülow, and subsequent charges were eventually reduced to a misdemeanour.

In 1983, found with 13 grams of cocaine, he spent a year in Jersey's La Moye Prison, where he met a car thief whom he later employed as a chauffeur. Released from La Moye, he was immediately arrested again, found with drugs and fined £3,000. Observing that Her Majesty's pleasure had done little to extinguish the peer's appetite for narcotics, the magistrate Frank Allen became the first of many to urge him to break his addiction. It was, he warned, a matter of life and death. In June 1993 an enlightened and humanitarian Judge Stable deferred a five-month sentence in order to allow the marquess to attend a clinic only to be informed, five months later, that he had jetted to the South of France.

In May 1994 he was released from Downside open prison after serving five months of a 10-month sentence for possession. Two days later police

'John confuses money with character. He thinks because he is richer than people he must be better than them'

flagged down his Bentley in Eaton Square and confiscated a quantity of heroin. June saw him selling off 2,200 acres of his estate for some £3.5m and fighting an eviction order from the National Trust who were hoping to curtail his lifetime tenancy in the east wing of Ickworth. In September he received two years' probation for possession. Another judge had given him another chance.

Frederick William John Augustus, seventh Marquess of Bristol, also Baron Hervey of Ickworth, Earl of



Bristol at Ickworth, the family seat in Suffolk, which he finally left last year

Bristol, Earl Jermyn, and Hereditary High Steward of the Liberty of St Edmunds, came from a line of fantastic oligarchs. According to the *Dictionary of National Biography* his forebears were, variously, "active and brave, but reckless and over-confident... greatly addicted to intrigue... of loose morals and sceptical opinions... effeminate..." Alexander Pope referred to one of them as "that milk-white curd of asses milk", but Dr Johnson thought them good company. "If you will call a dog Hervey," he said, "I shall love him."

John was, by his own account and by the accounts delivered by many defence lawyers, a lonely child damaged by a distant and semi-mad father. At Eton Victor Hervey once knocked a boy out with a knuckle-duster, and he did not change. At the age of 23 he was sentenced to three years in prison for his part in planning a jewellery robbery. Amongst the many legends that arose around him was the story that, having worked as a financial adviser to Costa Rica, he stole the country's en-

tire gold reserve, legged it to Monte Carlo and gambled it away. In 1949 he married Pauline Bolton, the daughter of a Kent businessman, and in 1954 their son John was born. Pauline then departed, claiming that she could not stand Victor's habit of keeping the radiators on all night, and married a Newmarket racehorse trainer, Teddy Lambton. A ward of court, the young Earl Jermyn spent much of his childhood at Ickworth and was close to his stepmother, Lady Juliet (née Fitzwilliam), until she too departed. After attending Hill House and Heatherdown, he went to Harrow.

Father and son, inextricably linked by the genetic curse, were locked in legislative warfare for many years. A large part of the estate and many treasures had already been handed to the nation's treasury in lieu of death duties. In 1975 Victor Hervey, by then the sixth Marquess, put the house and its contents on the market and John was forced to raise the £2.6m required to buy back his home. Ickworth was, perhaps, the only thing he cared for, or dared to care for, and even that went in the end. The contents were sold at auction in 1996 for some £2.5m, and the remaining lease on the east wing given up to the National Trust last year. The house had been in his family since the 15th century.

"Extreme emotions can be dangerous," Bristol told me. "I get bursts

of pleasure from beauty. There was a fawn once that came into this house and I liked that because it showed that people had emotions. My father had no emotions at all really."

What was Bristol like? It was difficult to tell. I spent a weekend at Ickworth once. He had tailored suits cut in unusual hues, a megaphonic voice and eyes that rolled around, there were sturred conversations about his cars and his possessions and the jokes that he had played on people: there were servants and there were young boys who enacted affection. But the man? The man had become an exhibition. He sat in his stately dining room beneath his family portraits and he could not eat. He could hardly speak. An all-consuming misery underpinned his drug habit and he accepted both as inevitable rather than rectifiable.

"You can buy something that is self-gratifying," he said, "but self-gratification does not last long enough and it does not turn into happiness. I can tell you, I've tried it for a long time."

JESSICA BERENSON

Frederick William John Augustus Hervey: born 15 September 1954; styled Earl Jermyn 1960-83; succeeded 1983 as seventh Marquess of Bristol; married 1984 Francesca Jones (née Fisher; marriage dissolved 1987); died Harrogate, Suffolk; 10 January 1999.

Solomon Kaufman

MANY LAWYERS have a second career inside their legal persona trying to get out and Solomon Kaufman was no exception.

He was born in London in 1908, the son of Russian Jewish immigrants. His father imported china and perhaps it was this early connection with design which would give Kaufman his second career, in art, when he retired from the law.

He was educated at the Grocers' School in Hackney, east London. Fluent in languages, Kaufman took degrees at the universities of London, Bonn, and Montpellier, ending with postgraduate study at the University of Moscow on the law relating to international rivers, before qualifying as a solicitor. After a short period with Nathan & Co he established his own firm, Kaufman and Siegal, specialising in trust and entertainment work.

Throughout his career he was interested in Jewish matters and in the 1930s he was the Honorary Secretary to the International Political Committee of the Jewish Agency. After the Second World War, he took a close interest in the development of the state of Israel, acting for the Israeli Provisional Government in three appeals, two successful, to the Privy Council over death sentences passed on Jewish dissidents.

In 1962 he was asked to represent the spy Robert Soblen, a naturalised American who had been removed from Israel by US marshals in what might politely be described as complicated circumstances. Soblen had been accused of conspiracy to deliver secret information to Russia in 1944-45. Because of ill-health, he was released on bail and on 25 June 1962, the day the US Supreme Court rejected his case and he was due to start a life sentence, he fled to Israel using his dead brother's passport.

Soblen was then taken on a specially chartered plane to Athens, where he was transferred to an El Al airliner bound for New York via London. En route he stabbed himself with a steak knife and the plane was diverted to Heathrow. The Home Secretary had made an order under the Aliens Order refusing Soblen leave to land but on humanitarian grounds he was rushed to hospital. Two days later he was out of danger and the order requiring him to leave was served. Now Soblen wished to challenge the legality of the order on the grounds that he had received implied leave to land and could not sub-

sequently be refused leave without deportation proceedings.

Kaufman applied for a writ of habeas corpus for his client, with an emergency midnight hearing before a judge at his home in St John's Wood, north London. It was successful. Meanwhile, in Israel, there had been a vote of no confidence in the Knesset over the circumstances of Soblen's deportation. An application for Soblen's release to the High Court and the Court of Appeal failed.

It was then announced that, if Soblen was placed on an El Al aircraft, he would be taken back to Israel, so it was arranged he would fly Pan Am. Then, on 6 September, in somewhat mysterious circumstances, Soblen obtained 30 grains of Second in prison and swallowed them before he was flown out. He died four days later. The outcome may not have been a happy one but Kaufman had shown he could work quickly under pressure in politically sensitive cases.

The next year Kaufman undertook his most famous case, when he was asked by the Jewish World Congress to represent the writer Leon Uris in the libel action brought against him by the former concentration camp doctor Wladislaw Dering, by now living in London. In his book *Erosud Uris* had alleged that Dering had performed some 17,000 experimental and unnecessary operations on prisoners in Auschwitz.

One of the problems Kaufman faced was to obtain hospital records from Poland, which was by this time under Communist rule. It was his skill in negotiating with the authorities that secured the vital release of these documents, which showed in Dering's clear handwriting the details of the operations he had undertaken and which turned the case in favour of the defendants. In the resulting trial, Dering obtained the derisory damages of a baili penny. But the triumph was for Uris and Kaufman. Dering died the following year, still owing some £17,000 of the costs of the action.

Kaufman resolved to give up politically orientated work and concentrated on his commercial practice before he retired from active practice in 1960, becoming a consultant with Sackler and Partners.

He then took up what was the love of his life – art. Already he had a fine collection of both modern and 18th-century drawings. Now he enrolled in art-history studies at both University College London and Essex University, obtaining a PhD and later an MPhil in Italian Stage Art in 1982. He then lectured at the Cini Foundation in Venice from 1982 to 1990 on Italian Stage Aesthetics. He was a member of the Council of Friends of Art Museums of Israel, to which he left his library of over 2,000 volumes.

JAMES MORTON

Solomon Kaufman, lawyer and art historian: born London 18 May 1908; married 1936 Jennie Lubin (died 1998); one son, one daughter; died London 25 December 1998.



Represented Leon Uris

John May

JOHN MAY enjoyed a unique international reputation as a dealer in second-hand and antiquarian books on music and musicians. His business May & May, with his wife Laurie, was initially a part-time activity, their first sale catalogue appearing in April 1964. Their most recent, for December 1998, was the 250th.

May was a remarkable self-made man, and an extraordinarily self-effacing one, whose belief in public service was evident in his many voluntary activities in music and elsewhere. His politics focused on free speech and fair play; he was an active member of Amnesty International and Index on Censorship.

He was born in Croydon (the family home was in Thornton Heath), his father a company secretary, with a passion for books which John inherited. A grammar-school education led, despite a teenage flirtation with pacifism, to a war spent in the RAF. In later life, he never referred to his war service. In fact, he enlisted in June 1941 and trained in South Africa from May 1942 to May 1943, being commissioned in April 1943 as Flight Lieutenant. Posted to Bomber Command, with 619 Squadron from August 1944 to January 1945, he flew Lancasters from Dulhorne Lodge and Strubby in Lincolnshire.

On a mission to target Würzburg, one of his engines fell over enemy territory, but he successfully pressed home his attack, and was awarded the DFC. The citation highlighted his "gallantry in the face of the enemy" which had been "a source of inspiration to all the crews of his squadron". May participated in the Dresden raid, whose horror was not lost on him, and he later developed a wide interest in German history. During 1947 he was posted to



Scholarly book catalogues

India, where he was involved in the closure and transference of RAF stations in the face of independence, with the acting rank of Wing Commander. Returning to England in a non-flying role, he resigned his commission in 1950 to join BOAC, working in the charter division. Later experience, first in Richards, a coach hire company, and then with Initial Towel Services, gave him a varied background in business practice which proved invaluable.

While with BOAC he was involved in trade union development, taking pride in ensuring that members were able to exercise their right to opt out of the Labour Party levy. This first-hand union experience would provide him with the stepping stone to another strand of his work for music, as Secretary of the Association of British Orchestras.

After his first marriage ended in divorce, in 1957 he married Laurie Lyons, whom he had met when they were both Labour councillors. Though without formal training he acquired a wide practical knowledge of languages; French, German,

Russian, Czech, Hungarian. He built an unrivalled international knowledge of music and the literature of music through handling and cataloguing it over half a lifetime.

When I first knew him May & May operated from their Putney home, sheaving covering every wall. Later, seeking more space, they moved to Tisbury, and then Semley near Shaftesbury. Seeking a job which would also enable them to develop their music business, he took the part-time post of Secretary of the Orchestral Studies Association, which he developed from a narrow 1950s organisation for negotiating with the Musicians' Union into today's Association of British Orchestras.

He put the ABO on a sound footing as an employer's trade association, and finally left in 1985. May was widely known in the musical world, and influential in the formation of the National Centre for Orchestral Studies and the National Campaign for the Arts. He was a board member of the Western Orchestral Society (Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra), becoming Vice-Chairman. It was his personal vision that established the Ermuli Trust, now the Music Libraries Trust, in 1982, to fund impecunious music librarians and researchers to attend conferences and meetings and carry out research.

While working in Westminster he took an interest in the courts and was appointed to the magistracy in 1972, serving in the Inner London area on the South Westminster Bench until 1985. He was characteristically proud of this service, and his lifelong sympathy with the underdog meant that he was not always inclined to believe police statements if not adequately corroborated.

As May & May's catalogues de-

veloped, he took a growing interest in the work of music librarians. Becoming a member of the UK branch of the International Association of Music Libraries (IAML(UK)), he became a committee member, 1973-79, and President, 1980-82. Lacking academic qualifications, at first he felt himself insufficiently qualified to accept the presidency, but once persuaded, as in the ABO, he transformed the organisation, introducing a business-like committee structure, making it outward-looking rather than inward-looking, and tried to ensure that the most junior were given a voice. IAML(UK)'s organisation and activity today is in no small part a legacy of John May.

May & May had a particular role. Models of their kind, John May's catalogues had a consistent range, depth and frequency that was quite amazing. But it did not end there, for customers became friends and May increasingly found himself an irreplaceable institution in bringing together scholars working in many fields, and successfully searching for "wants" no matter how obscure. Notable collections dispersed through the catalogues included those of Anna Instone and Julian Herbage, Trevor Harvey and Christopher Palmer. Fully referenced and extensively annotated, the catalogues provided something for every taste, and reading them was an education, as well as a pleasure. A set constitutes an enduring scholarly memorial.

LEWIS FOREMAN

John William May, bookseller and administrator: born Croydon, Surrey 8 July 1922; DFC 1945; married 1948 Doreen Hutchinson (two daughters; marriage dissolved); 1957 Laurie Lyons (one son); died Bristol 28 December 1998.

Lt-Col Paul Rivière

PAUL RIVIERE was one of the critical figures in French resistance to Nazi occupation. He ran, from the French Enrd, secret air landings in southern France in 1942 to 1944.

Born in 1912, he was a schoolmaster as his father had been; and so was made a sergeant instructor at the cavalry cadet school at Saumur, of which staff and students together held out for three days against the otherwise headlong-victorious German army in June 1940.

Rivière evaded capture and went back to his home in Burgundy, where he joined Henri Frenay's early resistance movement Combat. After serving an apprenticeship delivering clandestine newspapers, he graduated to receiving a parachute drop in June 1942. The Vichy police then caught up with him and put him in prison at Lyons for four months on the charge of distributing anti-government propaganda. He was let out just before the Germans occupied Vichy's hitherto "free" two-fifths of France; and went straight back to helping receive the Lysander aircraft in which Frenay returned to France.



Secret landings

He was himself brought over to England for training by Hudson in May 1943 and at once made friends with Hugh Verity who commanded the Lysander flight of 161 Squadron (and has described its work vividly in *We Landed by Moonlight*, first published in 1978 and still in print). He was also much taken by Genevieve Fassin, who helped lay out the lights for that Hudson; they later married.

He parachuted back into France in July to replace Bruno Larat, who had organised his flight out, as head of the Service d'Atterrissages et Parachutages, the Free French organisation that co-operated with the RAF and with SOE in arranging parachute drops and secret pick-ups by light aircraft all over southern France (Larat had fallen into enemy hands).

He personally received at least one Hudson a month for several months thereafter: no easy task. For each operation he had to find a suitable field, clear it with the Air Ministry by secret wireless, find reliable friends to help him light it when a coded message on the BBC's French service told him the aircraft was coming, collect and hide the departing passengers, and have a safe hiding place for any arrivals.

His passengers included a future president of France, Vincent Auriol; General de Lattre de Tassigny; and several past and future ministers of the third and fourth Republics, as well as such heroes of resistance as Richard Heslop and Victor Gerson. His wife supported him through all the perils, and was quite capable of managing a secret air landing by herself if such chance made her husband unavailable.

All this was done in the teeth of 15 separate Vichy French police forces, as well as the Abwehr and the Gestapo; none of whom ever got hold of

Rivière again. Occasionally, indeed, he found the French police helpful. Once he was almost run over by a Hudson that landed across wind and lost his pipe and spectacles; a gendarme searching the field next morning found them and unobtrusively handed them back.

On the night of 8/9 February 1944 a Hudson received by Rivière stuck in the mud at the edge of its field in Burgundy. Manpower could not shift it. The mayor of the nearby village arrived and mobilised a pair of oxen and a carthorse. They got the Hudson clear and it took off, safely carrying with it an RAF evader and two eminent resisters on the run, the Aubracs with their little boy. Madame Aubrac went into labour on the journey and had her baby later that day.

He was brought out to England again by Hudson in May 1944. More passengers had been carried secretly between France and England by his agency than by any other. As his official rank was still sergeant, he was fobbed off with a military medal; an OBE was added later when de Gaulle made him a Lieutenant-Colonel.

In that rank he served successively in Indo-China, Germany and Japan, where he was military attaché from 1956-59. He then had the horrible posting of chief security officer in Algeria from which he was glad to retire to politics in 1962. He was deputy for the Loire department for 16 years and retired happily to live at Montigny, of which he was mayor.

M. R. D. FOOT

Paul Claude Marie Rivière, army officer and wartime resister: born Montigny, France 23 November 1912; married 1943 Genevieve Fassin (deceased; three sons, one daughter); died Lyons, France 16 December 1998.

The Right Rev Ronald Goodchild

BISHOP RONALD Goodchild is remembered with smiling admiration by an unusual variety of those who shared their youth with him: in schools, in the RAF and in the immediate post-war church houses, especially St Michael's House, Hamburg. At the end of his career it was noted that, as bishop presiding at a major diocesan meeting, he ensured a full discussion when the administrative machine wished to deprive an enterprising and rather bold young curate of extra earnings. Goodchild was not one for sweeping things under the carpet to the disadvantage of the young.

Goodchild's sense of fun and delight in other people's good fortune made his determined work for the deprived through Christian Aid, of which he was chairman for 10 years, all the more effective. As Bishop of Kensington he never kowtowed to the smart or was too hurried to miss the deeper underlying problems. His 16 years as Bishop in west London saw a slow but creative introduction of new forms of worship, fresh parochial initiatives and warmer relationships between the churches. He would wander into houses or vicarages, wealthy or poor, with the assurance of an experienced family GP sharing a Christianity whose hard core was shrewd practical kindness. He led happy and hard-working groups of parishes.

Goodchild was born in 1910 in Australia, the son of a former Bush Brother. He was educated at St John's School, Leatherhead, and Trinity College, Cambridge. After spending time in teaching he was ordained in 1935 to St Mary's, Ealing, and in 1937 became Chaplain of Oakham School. In 1942 he insisted on volunteering as an RAF Chaplain and was twice mentioned in Despatches in post-D-Day flights of Typhoon fighters in constant action. He remained a Chaplain after the war and was appointed to the imaginative, newly created St Michael's House in Hamburg from 1946 to 1949.

The post-war European church houses established personal contact with the young Nazis who had been selected by the Third Reich to rebuild Europe. These young Germans disillusioned in defeat were keen to learn the secret of their conquerors. Goodchild was a genius at conveying the essence of practical Christianity and convincing the young of the need for a new approach. The fact that he both became their friend and was an expert mimic of their eccentricities assisted the process - which was aided by the presence on the staff of a young Dutch resistance worker and other non-German Europeans.

Goodchild's experience of the crucial power of shared discovery was carried on by him later as General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement in Schools. He also served the Parish and People Movement which changed the pattern of life and worship all over England. As Vicar of Horsham, then Archdeacon of Northampton and finally Bishop in west London his temperamentally mild approach persuaded those he served that the time had come for the Church of England to change its ways.

He and his wife Jean, whom he married in 1947, always welcomed colleagues and neighbours into their homes whether in Sussex, Peterborough or London. He organised the transformation of his rectory at Eton to become a valued retreat house for the Diocese of Peterborough after his departure. In London at their home in Campden Hill there was a stream of visitors and neighbours. Here were held many gatherings of all kinds - Anglicans, Free Church people and Roman Catholics all drawing closer together.

While he may have been inarticulate about doctrinal complexities, those he served felt that here was a great man conscious of God's presence in life's diversity

Ronnie Goodchild's experience was exceptionally wide. His inheritance of the Bush Brother tradition, his own harsh knowledge of intense post-D-Day fighting and his empathy with the young British and young Germans gave him insights rare amongst more prominent church leaders. Though he respected tradition, he was not doctrinaire. He never stopped searching for ways in which Christianity might be tried in everyday life and, if he was inarticulate about doctrinal complexities, those he served felt that here was a great man conscious of God's presence in life's diversity.

In the 1970s he became drawn to the ecumenical Focolare Movement, based



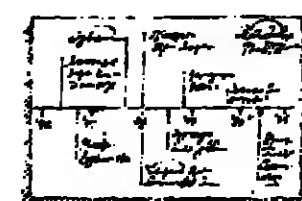
Goodchild with Jane Asher celebrating the 100th birthday of St Michael and All Angels, Bedford Place, in London

in Rome, and he joined a group of hishops friendly to the movement, from seven different denominations, in regular meetings to the end of his life, in Rome, in Ottmaria in Germany, and at the Focolare Centre for Unity in Weylyn Garden City.

Towards the end of his 16 years as Bishop of Kensington, Goodchild became a serious craftsman: his creativity as a designer and maker of chairs and other furniture expressed the delight he had always found in the work of other artists. His humour and sense of fun allowed him to shock as well as to laugh, both to enjoy cricket and also the oddities of the modern world.

ALAN WEBSTER

Ronald Cedric Osbourne Goodchild, priest: born Parramatta, New South Wales 17 October 1910; ordained deacon 1934, priest 1935; Chaplain, Oakham School 1937-42; Warden, St Michael's House, Hamburg 1946-49; General Secretary, SCM in Schools 1949-53; Rector, St Helen's Bishopsgate with St Martin Outwich 1951-53; Vicar of Horsham 1953-59; Archdeacon of Northampton and Vicar of Eton 1959-64; Bishop Suffragan of Kensington 1964-80; Chairman, Christian Aid Department, British Council of Churches 1964-74; Honorary Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Exeter 1983-98; married 1947 Jean Ross (one son, four daughters); died Hartland, Devon 28 December 1998.



HISTORICAL NOTES

DONALD H. WOLFE

Kennedy murdered Marilyn Monroe

AS THIS century draws to a close the ghost of Marilyn Monroe continues to haunt an era. She was larger than life and died suddenly, prematurely, and mysteriously. Troubling questions still surround her death.

While many have despaired of the truth being told in their lifetime, 36 years after Monroe's alleged suicide starting new information has evolved regarding the circumstances of the film star's death. Recent statements by key witnesses, a re-evaluation of the autopsy report, and new documentation now establishes Marilyn Monroe as a murder victim, and that she died shortly after a violent argument with Robert Kennedy, the Attorney General of the United States.

The release of a top secret Central Intelligence Agency file documents what heretofore had been speculation. Dated 3 August 1962, the day before her death, the document establishes that Monroe's home had been placed under electronic surveillance by the CIA in the last months of her life. Concerned about her "trysts with the President and Attorney General", the CIA file states that Monroe kept a "diary of secrets", a journal of her private conversation with Jack and Robert Kennedy, and that she was privy to closely guarded government secrets.

While there always had been speculation that Robert Kennedy was involved with

Monroe's death, the official story was that the Attorney General was in northern California that weekend. However, the retired Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates has now admitted that Kennedy was in Los Angeles on the day Monroe died, and in 1985 Eunice Murray, her housekeeper, revealed on the BBC documentary *Say Goodbye to the President* that Robert Kennedy had visited the film star's house in the hours before she died.

Norman Jefferies, Mrs Murray's son-in-law, was recently interviewed for the first time and proved to be an eye-witness to the events that took place at Monroe's home on the day she died. Jefferies said the Attorney General arrived with the actor Peter Lawford in the mid-afternoon of 4 August 1962, and there had been a violent quarrel. Jefferies revealed that Kennedy had threatened Monroe and her psychiatrist, Dr Ralph Greenson, was called to quiet her down.

Jefferies stated that Kennedy returned at approximately 10 o'clock that evening with two men he didn't recognise. Told to leave the premises, Jefferies and Mrs Murray waited at a neighbour's house for Kennedy and the two men to depart. Upon returning to the house later, they found Monroe comatose in the guest cottage, where she died. Jefferies said Monroe's body was moved to the

main house by officers of the LAPD intelligence division and that the "suicide in the locked bedroom" scenario was orchestrated by the intelligence officers.

A re-evaluation of Marilyn Monroe's autopsy report establishes that she didn't die of an overdose of sleeping tablets, but by an injection of a barbiturate. John Miner, Assistant Los Angeles District Attorney, who was present at the autopsy, has never been convinced that Marilyn Monroe committed suicide. Miner believes the evidence points to murder, and he has requested that the Los Angeles District Attorney's office reopen the case and have the body exhumed. There's no statute of limitations on murder, and there's more than ample evidence to support the re-opening of the Marilyn Monroe case. John Miner and many others feel that Monroe should not bear the stigma of a "probable suicide".

The doors of officialdom in Los Angeles are not likely to open readily to a new investigation. On the other hand, if the case isn't re-opened and if witnesses are not called to testify under oath, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis may be proved correct in saying, "Marilyn Monroe will go on eternally."

Donald H. Wolfe is the author of *The Assassination of Marilyn Monroe* (Little, Brown, £17.50).

Injunction to prevent accountants from acting

TUESDAY LAW REPORT

12 JANUARY 1999

Prince Jefri Bolkiah v KPMG (a firm)

House of Lords (Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde, Lord Hutton and Lord Millett) 18 December 1998

WHERE A firm of accountants had provided litigation support services to a former client, and in consequence had in its possession information which was confidential to him, the court would intervene to prevent it from undertaking work for another client with an interest adverse to that of the former client unless it was satisfied that there was no risk of disclosure of the confidential information.

The House of Lords allowed the appeal of Prince Jefri Bolkiah against the decision of the Court of Appeal (Law Report, 22 October 1998) that he was not entitled to an injunction to prevent KPMG from carrying out an investigation for the Brunei Investment Agency ("BIA"). KPMG had been auditors of the BIA since its establishment in 1983. Prince Jefri had been chairman of the BIA until, in March 1998, he fell out of favour with his brother, the Sultan, and was removed from that position.

Between 1996 and 1998 KPMG had been retained on behalf of Prince Jefri to undertake a substantial investigation in connection with major litigation ("the Manoukian litigation") in which he was personally involved.

That had involved the forensic accounting department of KPMG in the provision of extensive litigation support services. They were entrusted with or acquired extensive confidential information concerning Prince Jefri's assets and financial affairs.

The Manoukian litigation was settled in March 1998, and thereafter no work was under-

taken on the project. In June 1998 the government of Brunei appointed a task force to investigate the activities of the BIA, and KPMG's forensic accounting department was approached with a view to assisting the task force in investigations ("Project Gemma") in connection with the withdrawal of assets from the BIA.

It became clear that that assignment was in part at least adverse to Prince Jefri's interests, but KPMG accepted the appointment, having issued instructions that a "Chinese wall" should be put in place within the forensic accounting department.

Gordon Pollock QC, Richard Meade and James Collins (Lovel White Durrant) for Prince Jefri; David Donaldson QC, AH Malek QC and David Quest (Stephenson Harwood) for KPMG.

Lord Millett said that the controlling authority on the issues raised in the case was the decision of the Court of Appeal

in *Rakusen v Ellis, Munday and Clarke* [1912] 1 Ch 831, which was authority for two propositions:

(i) that there was no absolute rule of English law that a solicitor might not act in litigation against a former client;

(ii) that the solicitor might be restrained from acting if it were necessary to avoid a significant risk of the disclosure or misuse of confidential information belonging to the former client.

It was conceded by KPMG that an accountant who provided litigation support services of the kind provided to Prince Jefri had to be treated for present purposes in the same way as a solicitor.

The basis of the court's jurisdiction to intervene on behalf of a former client was the protection of confidential information: the duty was to keep the information confidential, not merely to take all reasonable steps to do so.

The test in *Rakusen* imposed an unfair burden on the former client, exposed him to a potential and avoidable risk to which he had not consented, and failed to give him a sufficient assurance that his confidence would be respected. The case for a strict approach was unanswerable. The court should intervene unless satisfied that there was no risk of disclosure, and it was not so satisfied in the present case.

There was no rule of law that Chinese walls or similar arrangements were insufficient to eliminate the risk, but an effective Chinese wall needed to be an established part of the organisational structure of the firm, not created ad hoc.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

GAZETTE

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Anthony Andrews, actor, 51; Mr Michael Aspel, television presenter, 66; Mr Herbert Barratt, former trade union leader, 94; Lord Boardman, former chairman, National Westminster Bank, 80; Mr Pieter Willem Botha, former President of South Africa, 83; Sir James Bottomley, former diplomat, 78; The Hon Sir Richard Butler, former President, National Farmers' Union, 70; Dame Fiona Caldicott, consultant psychotherapist, 57; Lady Cosgrove QC, a Senator of the College of Justice of Scotland, 52; Miss Stella Cunliffe, statistician, 82; Mr Keith Dawson, former Headmaster, Haberdashers' Aske's School, 63; Mr Brendan Foster, former Olympic athlete, 51; Mr Joe Frazier, heavyweight boxer, 58; Baroness Hamwee, solicitor and local councillor, 52; Baroness Hilton of Eggarston, former Head of Training, Metropolitan Police, 63; Miss Anne Howells, opera and concert singer, 58; Sir Anthony McCowan, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 71; Mr Denys Milne, former managing director, BP Oil, 73; Mr James Mortimer, former General Secretary of the Labour Party, 78; The Very Rev Dr John Moses, Dean of St Paul's, 61; Mrs Kali Mountford MP, 45; Mr Des O'Connor, comedian, singer and television presenter, 67; Miss Laize

Rainer, actress and painter, 89; Sir John Rennie, former Commissioner-General, UNRWA, 82; Sir Terence Streeton, former diplomat, 69; Sir Swinton Thomas, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 68.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Jean Baptiste van Helmont, chemist, 1580; Giuseppe Ribera ("Lo Spagnuolo"), painter, 1588; Edmund Burke, statesman, 1729; Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, educational reformer, 1746; Erik Gustaf Geijer, poet and historian, 1783; George William Frederick Villiers, fourth Earl of Clarendon, politician, 1800; Arabella Goddard, pianist, 1836; Adolph Jensen, pianist and composer, 1837; Joseph Jacques-Césaire Joffe, French marshal, 1852; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, 1856; Sir Charles William Chadwick Oman, historian, 1860; John Griffith (Jack) London, novelist, 1876; Ferenc Molnar, playwright, 1878; Curbastro Gregorio Ricci, mathematician, 1883; Hermann Goering, Nazi leader, 1893; Paul Müller, chemist, producer of DDT, 1899; Igor Vasilievich Kurchatov, physicist, 1903; Rex Ritter (Woodward Maurice Ritter), actor, 1907.

Deaths: Maximilian I, Holy Roman Emperor, 1519;

Lorenzo di Credi, painter, 1537; Fernando Alvarez de Toledo, Duke of Alba, military commander, 1582; Jan Brueghel the Elder, painter, 1625; Pierre de Fermat, mathematician, 1665; Henry Stafford Northcote, first Earl of Iddesleigh, 1887; Sir Isaac Pitman, printer and publisher, 1897; Jean-Léon Gérôme, painter, 1904; Nevil Shute (Norway), novelist, 1960; Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie, detective-story writer, 1976.

On this day: Protestants in Switzerland introduced the Gregorian calendar, 1701; the Royal Aeronautical Society was founded, 1866; the Zulu War began, 1879; the National Trust was founded, 1895; in the general election, there was a Liberal landslide, 1906; Britain's first supermarket was opened by the London Co-operative Society at Manor Park, Ilford, near London, 1948; more than 200 people were killed during an avalanche in Austria, 1964; the New Zealand parliament was opened by Queen Elizabeth II, 1954; after the Biafran army surrendered, the civil war in Nigeria ended, 1970; the Boeing 747 touched down at Heathrow after its first transatlantic flight from New York, 1970.

Today is the Feast Day of St Arcadius, St Benedict or Benet Biscop, St Caesaria, St Eutropius, St Margaret

Bourgeois, St Tatiana and St Victorian.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Dillian Gordon, "New Appearances (ii): Lorenzo Monaco, *The Coronation of the Virgin*", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Norbet Jokop, "European Commemorative Medals", 2pm. British Museum: Carolyn Perry, "Function and Symbolism: mosque lamps in the Addis Gallery", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: William Forrester, "Plots and Scandals (vii): the trial of Queen Caroline, 1820", 1.10pm.

LORD CRAIGMYLE

A Mass of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Craigmyle will be celebrated on Thursday 28 January at noon in the crypt of Westminster Cathedral, London SW1 (entry from Ambrosden Avenue). Bishop Vincent Nicholls will conduct the service on behalf of the Association of Papal Orders in Great Britain.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Nicholas William Garside, to be a full-time Chairman of Employment Tribunals.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

Canon Paul Atkins, Rector, Aylmerton with Ruston, and Priest-in-Charge, Beeston Regis and Gresham (Norwich); to be also Diocesan Chaplain, Mothers' Union (same diocese). The Rev Anna Lisa Garvie, NSM Curate, Caddington (St Albans); to be Chaplain, Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust (London). The Rev Martin Housman, formerly at Peterhouse School, Zimbabwe; to be Chaplain, Norwich School (Norwich). The Rev Dr Dennis Lloyd, Priest-in-Charge, Malvern St Andrew (Worcestershire); to be also Rural Dean of Malvern (same diocese). The Rev Margaret Saville, Curate, St Chad (Chester); to be Vicar, Over St Saviour and St Paul (same diocese). The Rev Christopher Seaman, NSM (Oxford); to be Vicar, St Paul (Oxford) (Oxford); to be Vicar, St Paul (Oxford) (Oxford). The Rev John Threlkley, Priest-in-Charge, Rushbridge and Hambledon (same diocese). The Rev Simon Vibert, Curate-in-Charge, Buxton Trinity (Derbyshire); to be Vicar, Wimborne Park St Luke (Southwark). The Rev Stephen Webb, Assistant Curate, Leeds St Aidan (Leeds); to be Vicar, St Aidan (Leeds). The Rev Ronald Whitlingham, Vicar, Holy Trinity (Chester); to be Honorary Canon of the Cathedral Church of Christ and Blessed Virgin Mary (same diocese).

OTHER APPOINTMENTS Margaret Underdown, Social Worker, Southport and Formby (Liverpool); to be Lay Missioner, Dudley St John (Wales); to be Vicar, St Thomas and St Luke (Worcester).

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries. In memoriam) are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Prince Edward, Patron, Ocean Youth Club, visits the

London Boat Show, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London SW5. The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, attends a dinner at Arley Hall,

Knutsford, Cheshire. Princess Margaret, President, the Guide Association, gives a Reception at Kensington Palace for Queen's Guides.

Back in the low life again

They're all parted out and hungover as hell. Some things never change. By Cayte Williams



DANI
studying
Biology



ROSIE
studying
French



DAVID
studying
Management



LEONA
was studying
Maths



TASH
studying
Management



ALISTAIR
studying
Management



RACHAEL
studying
Art History



IAN
studying
Geography



ROBBIE
studying
Economics

THE STUDENTS are drifting back to their Manchester house after two weeks of Christmas telly. Ian, who has bar shifts to do, is the first back, but his homecoming is ruined by the discovery that the house has been broken into. "They managed to get into Alistair's room," he explains. "We won't know whether anything has been stolen until he comes back from America, but thank God his computer is still there."

Anyway, they've had the window fixed and everything is back to normal. Dani's back in Manchester, Tasha is on her way up north, Robbie and Dave are back at home in Leeds and Sutherland respectively (they've got exams soon, so they've decided to study where they don't have to worry about taking things such as cooking, washing etc.) and Leona's still in Coventry.

So how were the holidays? Ian had a great Christmas at home with his family after he'd spent four days in the Manchester house on his own in bed with flu. "It was better that way," he says

stolically, "because it meant I didn't give it to anybody else."

He went on to have a brilliant new year in Edinburgh with his older brother Stuart, Dave and Robbie. Minutes after midnight, in a Hogmanay crowd of 200,000, they bumped into Tasha. "I was supposed to be going up to Edinburgh with Leona," explains Tasha, "but of course she changed her mind. I knew the boys were going to be there, but I had given up any hope of meeting up with them. Then at midnight, Ian's mate grabbed me: all the boys were there. It was just so nice."

In fact, Tasha was impressed with Edinburgh. "It was so spectacular," she continues. "You don't get anything like it in London. People go to Trafalgar Square, but what do they do there? There are no bands, the pubs are all shut, nobody's happy - while everyone was really friendly in Edinburgh."

So as a Londoner, is she sick and tired of her home town? "It's not that I think Londoners are

THIS STUDENT LIFE



SPRING TERM, WEEK 1 AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

unfriendly. I just think the council in Edinburgh made a real effort." In fact, Tasha had so much fun that she's decided that she

really likes living with the boys, no matter how much mooning and laddish banter that involves. She'll be buying *Louded* next. "The lads have made me less prudish," she laughs. "At first I thought: 'You rough, rough people, stop it!' I thought I was living with complete deviants because of their jokes and the ridiculous things they do. Now I see the funny side of things, because they're not being serious at all. I find their humour more endearing. They will always be crude nine-year-olds. There's nothing you can do about it!" Mind you, this is Tasha, remember, the girl whose ladette credentials include virtually no possessions in her room and a total refusal to cook (takeaways are so much more practical).

But she surprised herself by cooking the entire Christmas dinner for her family. "How festive is that?" she laughs, still amazed at herself. "I don't cook at all! It was quite a surreal occasion. I was thinking, this is

going really well. Now I don't think cooking is such a big deal." Tasha also has something else on the back burner. When Leona gets back, she and Tasha are going to set up a new business. They've seen Alistair and Dave's little ventures and have decided to organise coach trips to their favourite club, Gatecrasher, which is in Sheffield. "It's so hard to get there from Manchester," says Tasha. "So you can make a couple of hundred pounds a week just sorting the coach out and getting the tickets. It could go horribly wrong, but you've got to show willing..."

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic Ocean, Alistair is still on holiday. He's staying with his father in Raleigh, North Carolina, and has met up with some old mates. There is his childhood friend, Lucien, whom he's known since he was three, and Tori, a girl he's known for years. "I was here at Easter last year and ever since there has been 'something' between us," he says of Tori. "We've called

each other as much as we could afford, and so, coming over here again, I hoped we'd finally be getting together." He and Tori spent Christmas with his dad, his dad's girlfriend, Liz, and her two children. "Tori and I are kind of special," he says. "We've both liked each other since we were about 10. Things are really great between us, probably too good, as I'm going back to Manchester soon, but we've been trying to have as much fun as possible, and we don't want to get too involved."

What odds for this long-distance love affair? Crossing the Atlantic is a long way to go for a night out at the pictures. Undaunted, Tori's planning on coming over to Manchester at Easter, and when Alistair goes to the University of Massachusetts on exchange next year he'll be only a couple of hours' drive away from Tori in New York. So what does Alistair reckon? "We'll see," he says. "But at the moment let's just say we're just living for the memories."

On tonight's *University Challenge* a retired solicitor pits his wits against BBC bully boy Jeremy Paxman. And wins. By Emma Cook

The quiz man with all the answers

Stumbling, hesitation and swearing are not responses we expect from our most belligerent of quiz masters. Jeremy Paxman may run verbal rings around politicians, but on tonight's *University Challenge* he seems to have met his match in the rather unlikely form of one Lance Howard, a contestant on the show.

Half-way through, Lance enjoys his moment of glory when Jeza asks: "Which medical instrument was devised by the Frenchman Len, Rennie, Len..." and is swiftly interrupted with Lance's correct reply, "The stethoscope." A split second of amazed silence, and Paxman manages a stifled, "Blimey".

Lance, sharp master of the buzzer, Lance Howard, 62, a retired local government solicitor from north London, was desperately keen, some may say more desperate than keen, to make an appearance on the programme. So much so, that one of the reasons Lance signed up for his current course in classical Greek at the Open University was to get a chance to apply. "It's generally thought that *University Challenge*, *Mastermind* and *Brain of Britain* are the top three," he says loftily. "And *University Challenge* was the only one that had so far evaded me."

Lance, who is married, with three children, was first drawn to the

"quizzing" circuit after a friend entered him for *Mastermind* without his knowing. He didn't succeed beyond the first round, but was still keen to repeat the experience.

"It's the stimulation of being against the buzzer that brings an adrenaline rush," he says. The heady mix of sitting in that black leather chair and feeling the spotlight upon him was sufficient to drive him to seek further thrills in other formats.

What intrigues him is how his mind adapts under pressure - in particular, how his subconscious seems to save him during moments of stress. Excitedly, he relates one occasion when he pressed the buzzer and didn't know the answer. But did Lance make a fool of himself? Of course not. "It was a question about the federation of the Southern States. The only thing I knew was Richmond, Virginia. How surprised I was when I opened my mouth and came out with the right answer: Jefferson Davis."

Such is the white-knuckle ride of quiz show mastery. Lance was hooked. Next there was Radio 4's prestigious *Brain of Britain*, and then ITV's *The Krypton Factor*. "I did enjoy those assault courses," he admits. But as with any compulsion, it's only a matter of time before the addict's sense of judgement is severely eroded. He ran out of



Lance Howard has been on them all, from the heights of 'Mastermind' to the low of 'Sale of the Century'

Nicola Kurtz

quality programming and happily entered the netherworld of daytime television. Even though the questions were less taxing, Lance still enjoyed the buzz. "Sale of the Century" was the furthest I had to descend," he says ruefully.

In any other context, he could be confessing in a "Quiz Show Anonymous" support group - if one doesn't exist yet, then surely it should. There seems to be an increasing number of victims who could benefit; only last November a certain Trevor Montague was sued for breaking the rules of Channel 4's *Fifteen-to-One* by appearing three times under a different name, and disguising his appearance. Money isn't the driving force here, but the more baffling mo-

tive of quiz-show notoriety. "After the first appearance, you start getting sucked in. It's the sheer fun of the thing. It's the idea of being in an arena and the spotlight's on you."

There is also a pecking order: an Oxford and Cambridge snobbery among contestants. Lance leans to the upper echelons. "There are certain quiz shows where people asked on are not, one might say, of all that high performance," he says snuffily. "They seem to be flummoxed by the easiest of questions." Not that Lance is averse to slumming it intelligently. "Why not enjoy yourself at someone else's expense for an afternoon?" he admits. And so part of his quiz career reads like the review highlights of TV Quick

magazine: *Fifteen-to-One*, *Mastermind*, *The Krypton Factor* and *Jeopardy*. The prizes began to flow in, though: £500 from *Jeopardy*, trophies, glass paperweights and even a bronze replica of a brain. "Heinous," sighs Lance who isn't that interested in material rewards. What he really craves is the academic glory of topping *Brain of Britain* and *Mastermind* with *University Challenge*.

He compares the thrill of these sorts of programmes, grandiosely to the glory of the Roman arena: "Because the real opposition isn't with other contestants, but with the audience - it feels gladiatorial. What they are really hoping for is for someone to come hideously

unstuck. It's good television; great theatre."

Then there's the cache of the celebrity quizmasters. Magnus, Bamber and Boh too; Lance respects them all. It's common knowledge in the quiz industry, Lance assures me, that Boh Monckhouse is by far the most knowledgeable. But Bamber is every contestant's quiz show hero, the *crème de la crème*. In contrast, Jeza meets with lukewarm affection. In Lance's eyes anyway. "I don't think Paxman has the urbane, authoritative approach that Bamber did. Bamber researched the programme himself and controlled it from the floor. Jeremy has to rely on a team."

Lance is less than impressed by

Jeremy's sometimes bullish manner. "I don't think Bamber felt it was essential to tell people they were inept, foolish or slow. Jeremy doesn't seem very inhibited in that area. There's a difference between hurrying quizzings and heckling politicians, and I think Jeremy may be caught between those two styles."

Although Lance refuses to divulge the winners of tonight's show against reigning champions, Magdalen College Oxford, he admits that this may be his last foray in the quiz arena. "I don't know where I'd go after this," he says. What about competing his own show? For once, he's short of an answer. "Nobody's asked me. I dream about it, but I'm still waiting to be asked."

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JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

28. EAVESDROPPING BY ANN TRENNEMAN



THE OTHER day I was in a pub having a chat with a friend. That was the idea, at least, except that I noticed a group of men at the bar. It was almost painful watching them communicate: all body language and no proper sentences. They kept moving around, picking up their pints, rearranging their elbows. They didn't talk so much as bark. Then, with a start, I realised that I should be having my own conversation. I must stop listening in!

I cannot help it: I love to eavesdrop. Nor am I alone. One of the first things infants do is to eavesdrop. To do it well you have to be invisible, and adults are pretty good at making kids that way. There is this myth that kids get bored listening to "grown-up talk", but I was never bored. Nor were my sisters, one of whom was amazingly indiscreet. It was not uncommon for her to say to my parents' friends things like "So-

and-so says that you've got a really big nose!"

My eldest daughter was always a talented eavesdropper and she loves telling me about other people's conversations. Her latest was the bossy wife and hen-pecked husband on a train. "No, you can't have a cup of coffee, Harold! Too much caffeine! What, a Coke? Well, I guess that would be fine. Just this once. But no coffee!" I asked her to repeat it to me for

this article and she was affronted. "I wasn't eavesdropping," she said. "I just accidentally overheard it while I was staring out the window."

But of course. My daughter said that she almost interrupted her couple to tell them the facts about Coca-Cola and caffeine, but in the end didn't. So she was eavesdropping, you see, because she didn't want them to know she had been listening. Eavesdropping is

usually accompanied by guilt. Perhaps this is why people get so worked up over mobile phones which are, let's face it, an eavesdropper's delight. What is it about a mobile that makes people think they are alone? Someone once told me it is impossible to have a proper fight on a mobile, because, just when you get to the screaming bit, the other person pretends to be in a tunnel.

Trains are among the best places to eavesdrop, especially late at night. I also recommend theatre bars, queues and changing-rooms (the latter changing-rooms in M&S are the best). Then there are restaurants. Some restaurants now offer single women a "ladies' table", which is discreetly hidden away. I always decline because, when dining alone, it is best to be close to others. After all, you never know what you might accidentally hear while staring out the window.

HEALTH

New research shows that for autistic children a picture really is worth a thousand words. By Liz Bestic

A window on the world

When Tina Reynolds found out last year that her three-year-old twin boys were autistic she broke down and cried. She had already guessed there was something seriously wrong because neither Thomas nor Daniel had shown any interest in speaking or communicating with her. "They seemed to be locked into a little world of their own, with no interest in anything around them," she says. Although Tina is the deputy head of a local primary school, she hadn't ever had first-hand experience of autism, a disorder that affects more than 500,000 families in the UK.

"I was totally unprepared for the disruption it would cause in my life," she says. "It's hard to describe to anyone who has never seen autism. The twins have great difficulty in expressing themselves, and can get extremely frustrated by their own limitations. Just like the character in *Rain Man* they are totally rigid in their routine, and if anything changes that routine they often react quite violently. For example, they come with me when I take my older boy to school. I take them on their reins, and they love it. But they associate going to the school with going to the park afterwards. If I decide to go a different route they throw terrible tantrums. It's quite frightening."

Luckily for Tina she lives in Brighton, where a new scheme to help autistic children is being piloted by her local education authority, in a project run by the Children's Society. The Picture Exchange Communications System (PECS) was developed in the US by a speech therapist and a psychologist, who recognised that many autistic children can understand pictures far better than they can understand the spoken word.

The PECS system is quite simple. The child has a book full of pages of cards depicting various images that are attached by Velcro. He or she pulls out the appropriate card and hands it over to the parent. For example, a child may give the parent a picture of a drink and then the parent gives the child the drink, while saying the word "drink".

"The advantage of PECS over a system such as signing is that autistic children don't tend to look at people. They are often very visual and can do all sorts of things such as jigsaw puzzles, and so PECS plays to their strengths," explains Jenny Cross, team leader of the Children's Society's Portage Project, who is helping Tina to cope with the boys.

"We first of all had to find out what would motivate the twins, so at their initial assessment they were presented with eight pictures of different types of food. We then simply recorded which food they went for first. Not surprisingly, chocolate buttons came out tops. So we began with those, and each time one of them gave Tina the card with a picture of chocolate buttons on it, he was rewarded with a quarter of a chocolate button," says Jenny.



Tina Reynolds with her autistic twin boys, Thomas (left) and Daniel, who are being helped by the picture exchange system

Andrew Hasson

The PECS programme has had excellent results in the US. In a five-year study of autistic children on the PECS scheme in Delaware, 76 per cent of them began to use speech within a year. Although the aim of the programme is not primarily to teach children to speak, but to give them a functional alternative means of communication, researchers on the Delaware project found that, once children get used to using up to 100 pictures, they often start to speak as a matter of course.

When Tina's twins first got the hang of PECS, it was an emotional moment. "People find it hard to believe how these children can break your heart," says Tina. "They are totally wrapped up in themselves and live inside their own heads. Not only do they have difficulty making sense of words, but they also find it hard to read facial expressions and gestures, so there is a total lack of communication. The twins had reached the point where they were really frustrated at not being able to tell me

what they wanted. When Daniel picked up that first card and handed it to me, it was pure magic."

Sue Baker, an educational psychologist for West Sussex, believes the PECS system is the best scheme around. "A lot of schemes have been developed using pictures which the child pointed to. But autistic children don't realise that

other people. They really don't understand how they are supposed to interact with the rest of the world. The beauty of PECS is that it helps both the parent and the child, because both are involved right from the start," she says.

"Some autistic children manage to acquire language skills, but don't understand why it's necessary. One

twiggled that the noises coming out of his mouth meant something and caused things to happen. It was an incredibly exciting moment for the parents."

Judith Gould, a clinical psychologist and an expert in the field of autism, is a speaker at a conference in London later this month. "We'll be looking at a variety of different ap-

proaches that can help autistic children. Early assessment and intervention is the key, but it is important to remember that autism is a spectrum disorder, which means the effects can vary from mild to extremely severe. I would never say one system of intervention suits every autistic child. PECS has a place, like many other programmes.

What's important is to find a system that suits your particular child." Sue Baker agrees on early assessment: "The sooner a child is assessed as autistic, the better his or her chances of a better quality of life. As soon as a child can recognise pictures, or have some way of reaching for or indicating what they need, they can be started on a PECS programme. One of the main difficulties is that many children are not diagnosed until they are two years old or more. We'd really like to start them sooner than that," she says.

"In the old days, the prognosis for these children was bleak. They were locked in their own world. Now we can see there are ways of improving their lives. If you can structure their environment so they can start to make sense of their world, then you can engage them and they can really start to learn."

For more information on autism, contact the National Autistic Society on 0171-833 2399

'The twins were frustrated at not being able to tell me what they wanted. When Daniel picked up that first card it was pure magic'

you need someone else in the room to communicate to. Pointing is no good if the mother is out of the room. When you have to exchange a picture, it means the child is forced to engage with another person. That's why I believe it is so successful. Most autistic children live in a world of their own and have no concept of why it's so important to interact with

three-year-old I worked with could speak a little, but he would often just repeat what other people said. He couldn't use words in a useful way. As soon as he started on PECS, he 'got the picture' and started to say 'drink, banana, biscuit' as he handed the cards over. Once he could see pictures of the words, things started to make sense to him. Then he

proaches that can help autistic children. Early assessment and intervention is the key, but it is important to remember that autism is a spectrum disorder, which means the effects can vary from mild to extremely severe. I would never say one system of intervention suits every autistic child. PECS has a place, like many other programmes.

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

IS IT still sensible to cut down on high-cholesterol foods?

Many years ago a link was discovered between high levels of cholesterol in the blood, and heart attacks. It therefore seemed logical to advise people to reduce the amount of cholesterol in their diets. But we now know that the cholesterol we eat is not the same cholesterol that plays a part in causing heart attacks. This damaging cholesterol is manufactured in the human liver. It seems far more important to reduce dietary fat. A diet low in saturated fats - found in animal products - will lower the level of cholesterol, but only by about 10 per cent. Many other factors increase the risk of heart attacks - smoking, exercise and genetic and dietary factors, such as another chemical in the blood, homocysteine. As research progresses, I wouldn't be surprised if we discover cholesterol to be a minor factor. The best advice is to take plenty of exercise, eat lots of fruit and vegetables, and not smoke.

IS IT possible to develop an allergy to penicillin if you have had the drug many times with no problem? Drug allergies can appear at any time. In fact, you are less likely to have an allergic reaction to a drug the first time you take it, and more likely to react with later doses. The serious signs of a drug allergy, which may require emergency medical treatment, include swelling of the lips and tongue, and difficulty breathing.

Humble apologies I have been contacted by three pharmacists, all of whom noticed an error in last week's question about fungal nail infections. The drug used to treat them is terbinafine, not terfenadine (an antihistamine). I am grateful to these eagle-eyed readers. This is not the first time that pharmacists have put me right, and I doubt it will be the last.

Please send questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier cannot respond personally to questions

Caesarean births: let women choose

WE ARE the product of our experience. That is, presumably, what explains the remarkable finding that one-third of female obstetricians in London would opt for a Caesarean in a normal pregnancy if given the choice.

The figure was cited in a controversial article in the *British Medical Journal* which argued that pregnant women should be allowed to choose to have their babies by Caesarean section if they wished to avoid the problems associated with a normal labour. But should the experience of London obstetricians dealing with the most difficult labours be taken as representative of women's experience as a whole?

The subject of childbirth arouses strong passions and the article provoked a vehement response. The original argument, put by Sara Paterson-Brown, consultant obstetrician at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea hospital, London, bears repeating. Although doctors have frowned on the

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

idea of allowing women Caesareans on demand to fit in with busy lives and avoid the pain and unpredictability of labour without sound clinical reasons, attitudes are changing, she wrote. A clearer assessment of the risks associated with normal labour and delivery has persuaded many women specialists in obstetrics to choose a Caesarean. The risks of vaginal birth include damage to the pelvic floor and to the urethral and anal

sphincters which can result in incontinence and an increased long-term risk of prolapse of the genitals. There is also a risk to the unborn baby, with one in 1,500 non-premature babies weighing more than 1.5kg (3lb 5oz) dying during labour. Ms Paterson-Brown wrote: "Elective Caesarean section cannot guarantee normality but it avoids the above problems by virtue of avoiding labour and prolonged pregnancy."

Childbirth, as I have said, arouses strong passions and it is an area where demands for a woman's right to choose have been loudest. Over the last two decades considerable advances have been made in wrestling from the doctors control of what is, after all, a natural process, and giving it back to women. This philosophy has entered the mainstream with the publication of the government report, *Changing Childbirth*, in the early Nineties, which stressed the importance of allowing women to have control of the process.



Caesareans - are they safer? The Wellcome Trust

In the light of this and other government reports urging doctors to respect women's choices in maternity care, Ms Paterson-Brown argued that it was unfair for their choices to be discredited because they are not the ones expected. "We are at a turning-point in obstetric thinking brought about not only by advances that have made Caesarean section safe... but also by the attitudes of society which reflect intolerance to risk. We encourage family planning, pre-pregnancy counselling

and antenatal screening... can we do all this and then refuse a woman a safe mode of delivery?"

Her critics deny that Caesareans are safer than vaginal delivery, arguing that there is a higher risk of hysterectomy because of haemorrhage, and a greater risk of death. They also argue that doctors are not legally obliged to do everything that patients request, even if they are mentally competent to do so. One pointed out that a survey in Holland found

only 1.4 per cent of Dutch obstetricians said they'd opt for a Caesarean in an uncomplicated pregnancy.

My own view is that a woman who feels strongly that she would prefer a Caesarean after bearing all the medical advice should have her wishes respected. In holding this opinion I have no doubt been influenced by the traumatic vaginal birth of my own first son - which ended with forceps under general anaesthetic, with mother's screams finally dulled and father weeping at what he was convinced was the imminent loss of both wife and baby son.

Colleagues who have had happier experiences think differently - that a woman with an uncomplicated pregnancy who refuses the opportunity of giving birth vaginally may be denying herself a rite of passage and a life-enhancing experience - as well as imposing heavy extra costs on the NHS.

Like much else in childbirth, this is an issue that will not yield to simple argument.



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Apparently, poetry is enjoying a boom. Yet it doesn't sell and nobody reads it. So who needs poets? By Michael Glover

What words are worth

What are poets for? Shelley had no doubts at all how to answer that question. They are the acknowledged legislators of the world, he said with a brash cockiness. In our own century, that rambunctious American, Ezra Pound, had similarly lofty views. Poets are the antennae of the race, he declared. Emily Dickinson said poets rinsed the language. Matthew Arnold, writing in the era of Tennyson and Browning, thought poets were a quasi-priestly caste, able to fulfil the role vacated by organised religion – somewhat similar to an older view that the bard is a repository of tribal memory, a guarantor of historical verities.

If this, or any part of it, is true, why is it that so many publishers in recent years have stopped publishing the stuff? Oxford University Press was merely the most recent of many. In 1985 Sinclair Stevenson made a large group of distinguished and not so distinguished poets redundant. Hutchinson has closed its poetry list, as did Secker and Warburg in the Eighties. Penguin, aside from its Modern Poets series, scarcely has a poetry list at all, outside its anthologies and various historical compilations. The masses of poetry books published these days pour out, in the main, from enthusiastic small presses and subsidised larger ones such as Anvil, Carcanet, Bloodaxe and Peterloo.

According to the massed voices of outrage raised when OUP made its announcement, the problem is one of philistinism and shortsightedness. "Even the great academic presses... have been brushed by the evil wing of Mammon," thunders *PN Review* this week: a journal edited by Michael Schmidt, of the Carcanet Press.

But perhaps this is not quite true. Perhaps the real reason for publishers abandoning poetry is only an indirect consequence of the fact that they cannot make enough money out of it to justify the investment. Why should they be, though? Because there is not enough of a market for the stuff. But why? Perhaps the real problem may lie not so much with those boorish publishers as with the idea of modern poetry and modern poets in general. Perhaps the reading public is genuinely confused about what poetry is and what poets are for. Are they priests of some kind, sent down amongst us to do us some good, whether it be educational or spiritual, or are they "mere" entertainers? A bit of one, a bit of the other, it seems, depending upon who you

are listening to. Unfortunately, those who entertain most beguilingly are seldom worth rereading. The best entertainers are seldom book makers.

First of all, let's scotch various bits of nonsense trotted out by a syco-phantic media. The idea of a poetry boom, for example. There is none. Ask the publishers of Carcanet Press, Peterloo, Enitharmon, Anvil, and they will all patiently explain that it has never been more difficult to sell poetry into and out of the bookshops. Far too many poetry books are being published, and the reading public, though interested in the idea of various categories of verse (often those half-remembered from school days), are extremely reluctant to buy books of poems by modern poets whose names may be little known to them. A poetry book tends to look expensive beside a novel in paperback, but more disturbing is the question of content. There exists a

such as Martin Amis can only dream about. When Amis's agent negotiated that bank-breaking advance for *The Information*, the papers couldn't get enough of every aspect of the story – amazement, guffaws, ridicule, the full, sordid, human panoply. When Hughes's *Birthday Letters* were serialised in *The Times*, there was hardly a whisper of filthy lucre changing hands. Only *The Economist* mentioned the huge payment Hughes was rumoured to have received.

Hughes was very reluctant to be interviewed, and even told one interviewer that he needed to draw a circle around himself in order to work at maximum concentration. That right was largely respected in his lifetime – but if he'd been a novelist?

So the public thinks poetry is a good, though rather fearful thing, and it deserves the encouragement of large-scale public subsidy, which it receives handsomely via the Poetry Society, the regional arts boards and the many subsidised poetry presses. Poets couldn't agree more, of course – and, as reviewers of each other's work, they are generally careful not only to be soft on each other, but always to avoid questioning the value of poetry itself. When poets and the idea of poetry are done down (as they were at the end of last year), the public is encouraged to pity them for their helplessness and, indirectly, for the fact that what they represent – whether it be some vague notion of a civilising influence, language well honed, or some residual notion that what they get up to might be spiritually beneficial – is being harmed.

But there is not a great deal of interest among the general public in reading what they write as it might demand strenuous exegesis, and the nature of what they in fact write about is made all the more obscure. At the same time as other sections of the press are giving more and more space to poets as good-looking people, literary editors are giving less and less space to the reviewing of poetry books themselves as people are not so interested in reading them.

"What do your poems do?" I once asked the American poet, John Ashbery, having first reminded him of Emily Dickinson's words about poetry rinsing the language. "I guess mine give a kind of blue rinse," he replied.

All this sounds like the recipe for a richly rewarding comedy of 20th-century cultural manners.

Poets are accorded an awestruck respect that a mere novelist can only dream about

fear that the book may be too difficult, too abstruse, too intellectually compacted by half to really appeal. Poetry in our century has made a virtue of ambiguity, intellectual strenuousness and a kind of proud, reader-repellent costiveness; it is reaping the miserable rewards now. Anyone who doubts that might reread *The Waste Land*, our century's sacred text. But is it not, in part, the role of the artist to speak from behind a veil? What is profound is never easy...

However there is another difficulty facing that casual browser, hovering self-consciously as he half-decides to buy a book of poems. It is often hard to know without reading it quite what the book may contain or in what manner it may be written. Those who buy novels can scan jacket blurbs, and decide whether the theme is to their taste. Not so the reader of contemporary poetry, who is likely to find a description of the poet's disparate "concerns" – memory loss, displacement, and that heart-sinking sequence about the loss of the *Mauretania* in which spectral voices play off against each other.

So much for the poetry. What of the poets themselves? Poets tend to be accorded by the press a kind of awestruck respect that a mere novelist



Left: Emily Dickinson; below left, TS Eliot; right, Ted Hughes
Hulton Getty



From the basses to the stars

IT WAS not until late in Act One, when Anne Evans launched into Leonora's great outburst "Abscheulich! Wo ist du hin?" that Walter Weller's reading of *Fidelio* with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, led by Jacqueline Harfey, began to warm the cockles.

Weller, a regular visitor to the CBSO and a former leader of the Vienna Philharmonic, tends to lead more than accompany, and occasionally overdoes. Certainly there was a curious stiffness to the CBSO's playing initially, as if they were earnestly knocking under to orders rather than listening intently to each other. Yet at those scattered moments when Beethoven's music acquired its own unstilted flow, the strings came gloriously into their own.

Gravitas, underlined by deliberate, carefully hewed legato and an aching slow tempo for the opening

CLASSICAL
FIDELIO/WALTER WELLER
SYMPHONY HALL
BIRMINGHAM

quartet, seemed the keynote of Weller's approach. In its casting, the CBSO certainly came up trumps: not just Evans, a dramatic and powerfully full-blooded (if not quite so lyrical) Leonora, but a superb trio of basses, Stafford Dean, Matthew Best and Clive Bayley, to play the noble-minded jailer, Rocco, the scheming Don Pizarro and Don Fernando (who arrives, prefaced by the famous searing trumpet call, as the opera's *deus ex machina*).

Whereas the opening family tiff between Marzelline (Lynda Russell, a mite too wide-vibrated) and her hapless fiancé, Jaquino (Barry Banks), was overwhelmed by the orchestral balances, Best's voice,

even at its mellowest, sears through even the thickest textures like a trombone, sending a delicious shiver down the spine. It is his vowels that define his magnificent tone and enables sound to penetrate so impressively (and occasionally words too: fortunate, given the provisional demise of the CBSO's surtitles).

It was Stafford Dean's convincing Rocco, however, which brought a poignancy to the first half. A veteran of both London opera companies, and more recently a stalwart of Scottish Opera (Dvorak's *The Jacobins*, James Macmillan's *Ins de Castro*, and Delius's *The Magic Fountain* later this spring), Dean seems to have regained all his old power and assurance; the all-bass trio, too, was a revelation. Ian Caley's Florestan, although notably breathless and oddly unsteady, was dignified by a warmth of delivery and poignancy of timbre that

curiously made amends. The final rejoicing with Leonora ("namenlose Freude"), skilfully executed by Weller, was delightful, as was the exquisite last scene interplay between Marzelline and Leonora (better balanced than in Act One).

If the CBSO men's chorus disappointed in the outer sections of the prisoners' chorus (only three out of 49 had heads not glued to copies), it melted in the central passage ("O Himmel!"), in hushed response to two gorgeously delivered male chorus solos. A high point of the evening, certainly – as was the playing throughout of the CBSO's principal oboist, Jonathan Kelly, who lent charm to Florestan's aria and (with splendid paired horns) to the vital closing ensembles.

The performance is repeated this Thursday at 7.30pm.
RODERIC DUNNETT

It'll all end in 'Chopsticks'

THERE'S NO telling how Steven Osborne will end a piano recital. On Saturday night it was with "Chopsticks", played backwards and in four keys. That didn't take very long, but he'd already given three encores – his own magical version of Liszt's "A Musical Snuffbox", an exquisitely bluesy paraphrase of Gershwin's "Second Prelude", and a more extended jazz improvisation, in which Osborne wittily searched for the appropriate thing to put over a halting ostinato and eventually came out of it with colours flying.

Osborne's flair as an improviser not only delights his audiences, it also seems to inform his playing of the classical repertoire. So that two of Beethoven's most popular Sonatas, the "Pathétique" and the "Moonlight", were refreshed by a combination of emotional restraint and warmth. The slow middle movement of the "Pathétique" and the

CLASSICAL
STEVEN OSBORNE
WIGMORE HALL, LONDON

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PURCELL ROOM, LONDON

slow opening movement of the "Moonlight" were flowing and sensitive, while the allegretto of the "Moonlight" was positively chirpy. Between them, Osborne played Charles Ives's *Three Page Sonata* with disarming exuberance, and spun its mesmerising central section with rapt concentration and listening quality that suggested he was creating the music on the spot.

That illusion of discovery lit up Debussy's first book of "Preludes", too. The fiercer, darker aspects of "Le vent dans la plaine" and the terror of "Ce qu'il y a vu le vent d'Ouest" were not stressed, but they were still

strongly played, and if "Des pas sur la neige" was not as desolate as it can be, it was beautifully melancholy. "Voiles" was exquisitely suspended in a languorous heat haze. "La sérénade interrompue" was delightfully humorous and "La danse de Puck" was impish and seductive.

I find more music in the 10 minutes of Ives's *Three Page Sonata* than in the 50 of his prolix "Concord" Sonata, however exalted the later work's reputation. In the Park Lane Group's Young Artists series at the Purcell Room on Thursday, Mark Kruger played it with exceptional assurance. If there was fault to find, it was that Kruger's composure seemed like coolness. Yet, while the South Bank's Bösendorfer limited the power and percussive impact he might have achieved on a Steinway, his finesse and control were some reward in themselves.
ADRIAN JACK

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The bones of hip hop bleached white

WHEN UNKLE's *Psyence Fiction* album was released last summer, it was received with fawning praise in all quarters of the press. However, behind the hyperbole could be sensed a hint of suspicion. The accusatory finger pointed directly at Mo Wax head honcho and self-elected Unkle figurehead, James Lavelle.

The charge: what exactly does he do? The sleeve-notes are clear in the fact that the songs were all written by Josh Davis, aka DJ Shadow. All vocals and lyrics are handled by an array of premier league guests, while James Lavelle is only attributed as co-producer. The suggestion

POP
UNKLE
OMU
GLASGOW

seemed to be that Unkle was merely a folly for Lavelle, a chance for the 24-year-old to rope in a few heroes and indulge himself.

Whether or not this is true is, frankly, irrelevant. The fact is that the music behind the packaging is largely dull. With the exception of three tracks, it's a collection that poses as the sound of the future, yet

harks back to the days of pomp rock. There are echoes of Yes, Genesis, and Emerson, Lake and Palmer throughout – hardly surprising when you consider DJ Shadow's own far more enjoyable album *Endtroducing* towards Jeff Wayne's *War of the Worlds*. More significantly, there is also a sense that, beneath the layers of strings, noises and obvious references, there is a funky heart, all but suffocated. If trip hop came to skin hip hop's groove, then Unkle have bleached the bones sickly white.

With this in mind, Sunday's show could have been a disaster, an op-

portunity for Unkle to overblow with a live band of faceless session musicians and a cosmic light show. Thankfully, Lavelle opted for the potentially more radical option of employing a team of turntablists to scratch-mix the album on stage. Thus, the UK's scratch champions, The Scratch Perverts, flanked Lavelle behind the decks as between them they turned *Psyence Fiction* on its head.

The cut and flow of the scratch style reignited the funk factor in tracks like "The Knock" and "Guns Blazing", while Ashcroft's "Lonely Soul" was delivered from rock hell

and turned into a turntablist classic. Talking to *The Independent* recently, DJ Shadow suggested that most scratch mix shows display little more than "highly evolved wrist action". There are, no doubt, some who will describe this live unit simply as Lavelle's highly evolved ego-mania. But the fact is that Unkle live offers turntablism at its best: not overbearingly clever; funky enough for the rammed crowd to dance to.

And Lavelle? Who cares if The Scratch Perverts are just the latest additions to his collection of talented friends. He is, after all, known to be someone who obsessively collects



The men from Unkle

the accoutrements of hip culture. Unkle then, are just his latest toy models. Damn funky they are too. Live at least.

MARTIN JAMES

Metal machine music

Futurism emerged at the turn of the century, flick-knives flashing, from the mean streets of Milan – more of a marketing campaign than an artistic movement, and a Fascist one to boot. But how else to sell the romance of the machine? By Stephen Bayley

Archaeologists can accurately date any civilisation simply by looking at its vision of the future. Few things are more historically specific, more evocative of temporary local concerns, than the artistic expression of our expectations. Futurism was Italy's first contribution to modern art: an eclectic body of painters, pamphleteers, controversialists and typographers, brought together by a journalist and prankster of genius called Emilio Filippo Tommaso Marinetti.

At the time Italy was the most technically backward of the advanced countries. This, of course, encouraged a belief in the infinite possibilities of the future. It's a curiosity of modernism that the most extreme expressions of the desire for progress came not from Paris and New York, but from pre-industrial centres. The constructivist El Lissitzky and the Suprematist Kasimir Malevich came from the meanest, remotest *oblasti* of imperialist Russia. For them, modernism offered a clean redemption from the grime of serfdom. But Marinetti was not from Siberia. He was from Milan (although the fact that his famous "Futurist Manifesto" was published in Paris, in *Le Figaro*, says all you need to know about contemporary Milanese mass media).

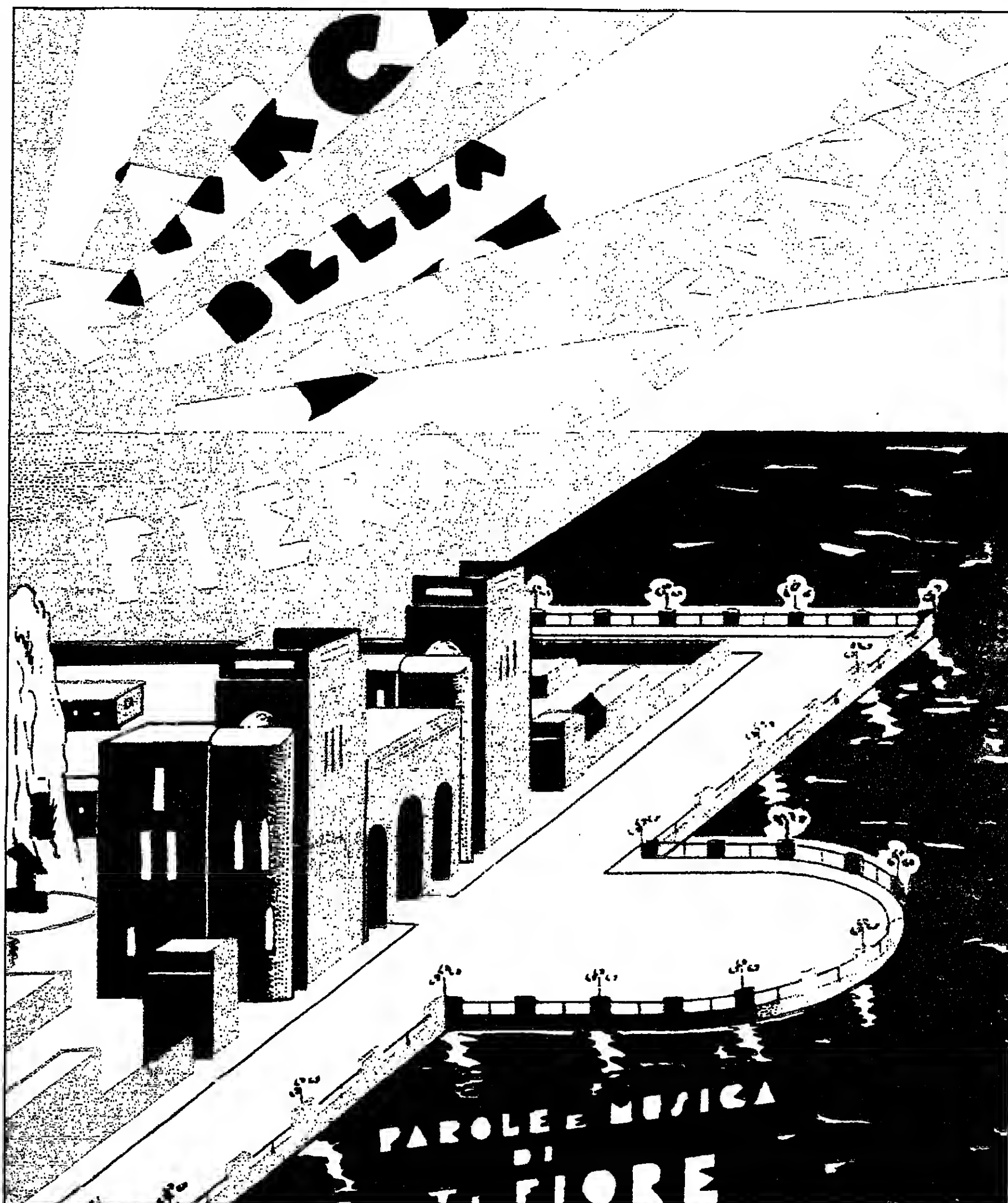
What was Marinetti's Milan like? Baedeker in 1899 comforts travellers that hotels "of the first class have lifts" (a comment eloquent of the others) and helpfully adds that a *fiacre* from the central station to the Duomo might cost 50 centesimi. It was the town of white marble and veal cutlets. The great Edwardian gourmet traveller, Colonel Newnham-Davies, describes the hilarious atmosphere of the restaurant Savini and says "a fire or a revolution could not excite the waiters more than their ordinary duties do". The Savini is still there. *Bersaglieri* officers strolled down the Galleria. They still do. Just as Marinetti was limbering up to denounce fine art and advocate racing cars and machine-guns in its place, Puccini was just finishing *La Fanciulla del West*.

Given Marinetti's distaste for gallery art, it is perhaps not surprising that Futurism's paintings are the least impressive of its achievements. With their roots in symbolism, but giving a nod to contemporary scientific interests in speed, the pictures of Giacomo Balla, Umberto Boccioni, Carlo Carrà, Gino Severini, Luigi Russolo and Ardengo Soffici are in truth only art historical curiosities. Instead, the great expression of Futurism was in typography and in performance.

And here is Futurism's significance: it realised the mood of the moment, captured and projected it. "Zang Tumb Tumb" was Marinetti's onomatopoeic poem about cannon used in the Balkan War of 1912. Later, Marinetti performed an acoustic poem about an aerial dogfight in which he made all the noises of the planes and the guns himself. This was before the talkies.

Marinetti wanted to destroy libraries, although, like Nicholas Negroponte of MIT's media lab who had to write a book to describe the awesomeness of Being Digital, the Futurists were equally committed to the expressive power of print. During the life of Futurism, more than 300 books and manifestos of one sort or another appeared.

"My revolution," Marinetti wrote "is aimed at the so-called harmony of the page, which is contrary to the flux and reflux, the leaps and bursts of style that run through the page. On the same page, therefore, we will use three or four colours of ink, or even 20 different typefaces if necessary. For example: italics for a series of similar or swift sensations, boldface for violent onomatopoeias and so on." The concept was styled *parole in libertà*, or words-in-freedom. If the effect is not always comfortable, then you must remember that Marinetti had no interest in maintaining the smug and easy



The future isn't what it used to be: Boccioni's cover for a piece of sheet music, 'Marcia della III Fiera di Levante'; top right, Tommaso Marinetti



Instead, we can see that what Futurism did was to reassign leadership in the visual arts from painters to designers. Anyone who has admired a poster and found fine art wanting is in touch with the spirit of Marinetti and Fortunato Depero. In fact, Futurism was more like a marketing campaign than an artistic movement. Their fascination with and exploitation of mass media anticipated and influenced advertising in the 20th century.

Depero (1892-1960) wrote in *Numero Unico Futurista Campari* (1931), a book about advertising art: "Although I paint freely inspired pictures every day, my commercial productions are created with an equal harmony of style, with the same love, with no less enthusiasm and care."

And then, after a sustained discharge of disrespectful and anarchic energy, Futurism wound down. By the mid-Thirties life was not imitating art; life had utterly transcended art in its ability to excite, astonish and dismay. For all his perverse genius Marinetti could not imagine anything as striking or as solemnly beautiful as, say, a Savoia-Marchetti plane, or as ravishing as an Alfa Romeo 8C car.

Nor could this man, this urbane Edwardian journalist and pamphleteer, intimate of *bersaglieri* officers, imagine anything as horrifying as the *Blitzkrieg* – although he did live to see it. If he had been on the Polish front witnessing the cavalry attempting to stop the panzers, you suspect that for all his mechanistic bravado Marinetti's true sympathies would have been with the riders not the tanks.

This is what you think when you visit "Zang Tumb Tumb" at the Estorick Collection, just a few hundred yards from the filthy roar of Highbury Corner. It is a superlative little exhibition in an idiosyncratic building of hilariously inappropriate elegance and charm. An hour here, sustained by a *panino tricolore* and a glass of prosecco, is just about the most civilised way I can imagine spending an hour in north London.

Marinetti standing in N1 would scarcely have believed how his vision had been achieved and even surpassed. The roar of traffic, the throb of a helicopter, the rumble of a jumbo. As the Futurists would have said: *Biffzzz+18*. Liberating words from their Latin prison was quite an achievement, although what Fortunato Depero would have made of Adobe Photoshop we can scarcely imagine. As I say, archaeologists can accurately date any civilisation simply by looking at its vision of the future.

"Zang Tumb Tumb, the futurist graphic revolution" runs until 11 April at The Estorick Collection, 39a Canonbury Square London N1 2AN (0171-704 9522). Wed-Sat, 11am - 6pm; Sun, Noon-5pm. Admission £2.50; concessions £1.50.

conventions of the old culture. Futurism is rebarbative. It is about lust and destruction, not love and creation. Music should be replaced by noise. Factor in a strong misogynist element, a love of speed and car crashes – also an influence on Puccini – and you realise there are no clichés here. You make notes about Futurism and the key words are bellicose, perverse, confrontational. It is fragmented, not cohesive. Futurism offers solutions rather than asks questions. Does any single utterance better summarise the conceit of modernism than Marinetti's remark that a racing car is more beautiful than the *Nike of Samothrace* (the classical Greek sculpture which stands at the head of the stairs in the Louvre)?

And while I think that Marinetti

was not half wrong, it must be conceded that he was a borderline lunatic. He is always stained by links with Fascism. Mussolini promised Italy an artistic revolution to follow the social revolution he was busy organising, and Marinetti taught *Il Duce* that Fascist art must be quintessentially Italian and should repudiate the charm and femininity of the past. When Mussolini writes of the "spiritual eroticism" of Nietzsche, you can't help thinking that Marinetti must have helped him mix his metaphors.

Futurism and Fascism shared the idea of combative opposition to the *status quo*, wherever it might be found, whatever it looked like. Publication of the Futurist compilation *Guerra solo igiene del mondo* (War the only world hygiene, 1915) led to

Marinetti's (and Mussolini's) arrest in a Rome street fight. And the Futurists were present at the launch of the *Popolo d'Italia*, forerunner of the Italian Fascist party.

But, to be fair, there was also present a motley of anarchists, syndicalists, communists, republicans, Catholics, nationalists and liberals. History relates that it was a chaotic (rather than sinister) gathering. No one knew quite what was going on, although when some direction eventually emerged it seems that the Futurists had influenced it. Policies included returning land to the peasants, workers' representation, incongruous votes for women and decentralised government.

Marinetti contributed to the first Fascist riot when, on 15 April 1919, he helped sack the offices of *Avanti!*, a socialist newspaper. By way of

thanks, in 1926 when Mussolini set up an Italian academy, Marinetti was one of the first elected (along with Masenani, Pirandello and the physicist Enrico Fermi).

But there is something a little innocent about all this pre-sterility posturing and play-acting. Futurism's lasting achievement was to explore new media and articulate the romance of the machine. Fortunato Depero was probably the most authentic of Futurism's talents. His book *Depero Futurista* (1927) used two industrial bolts to hold it together, 40 years before Pontus Hulten published a metal-bound book to celebrate the machine age at New York's Museum of Modern Art.

And what else did Futurism leave behind? Marinetti's daftest (and

therefore most memorable) publication was *Cucina Futurista* (1931) (*Futurist Cook Book*) in which he advocated stroking a little velvet while sniffing eau-de-cologne. This seems to have had very little influence on Ruthie Rogers and the River Café crowd, although the epochal scooter can claim an aesthetic and technical inheritance from the ideas swimming and flying about the Futurist review *Estetica della macchina*. Piaggio's designer, Corradino d'Ascanio, who drew the Vespa, was a chum of Marinetti's bizarre accomplice, the poet d'Annunzio. And who knows? Maybe Marinetti's 1927 book *Scatole d'Amore in Conserva* (boxes of love conserved) later inspired Piero Manzoni so famously to can his own excrement. But, all in all, Futurist "art" was a blind alley.

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART. THIS WEEK: DAVID THORPE

AT LEAST one critic made the error of describing David Thorpe's pictures as "paintings" when they were shown in Martin Maloney's *Die Young Stay Pretty* exhibition at the ICA, in central London.

Closer inspection reveals that they are collages of coloured art paper whose contours are half a centimetre deep in places. He cuts out shapes with a scalpel – it took him a day to cut out each tree in his big 5ft by 5ft 6in *After the Rain*, shown right – then puts them under the mattress on the floor where he sleeps. After several nights they are well and truly stuck.

Paintings they are not, but they are certainly about painting. Their hard-edged segments of flat colour seem to mimic the cool new realism in painting that has caught Charles Saatchi's eye, and to carry it a stage further. Thorpe's greatest influence is on the featureless and beguiling paintings of fashionable women by the American Alex Katz, one of Saatchi's favourites.

Two years ago a rudimentary two-tone Thorpe collage cost £500. Now his prices range from £1,000 to £2,000. Some of those early collages, of nocturnal urban architecture, will be shown in the Saatchi

Gallery's *Neurotic Realism* later this year – and he is negotiating a commission with Saatchi for a 8ft by 10ft collage. His gallerist, Maureen Paley, of Interim Art, will be taking *After the Rain* to next month's international *Armory Show* of new art in New York.

The ICA show was the first of Maloney's to include Thorpe's work. Maloney was his tutor in art theory on his MA fine arts course at Goldsmith's College.

Thorpe, 26, began making rural scenes when he realised he was making landscape. He started looking at the silhouettes in the highly

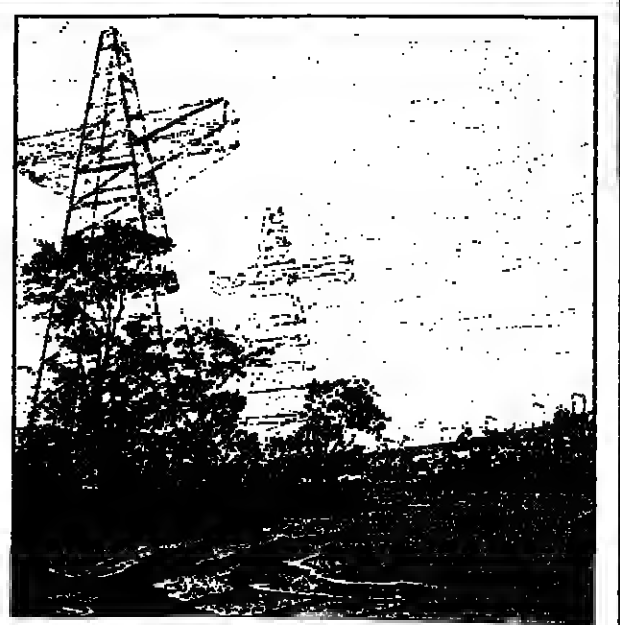
polished landscapes of Claude, Friedrich and Fragonard. There is a back-to-basics feel about his work.

If Claude were alive today, would he have dwarfed his flat, seemingly cut-out trees with electricity pylons instead of classical temples? He would certainly not have lost the romantic blend of sylvan simplicity and monumentalism that Thorpe's work echoes. Art paper and spray-on photo-montage glue would probably not have appealed to Claude's 17th-century French taste. In Thorpe's work, the collage technique – a craft skill – underlines the humility of his vision.

There are few people in Thorpe's collages (and no nymphs or shepherds). But there is a sense of narrative – a bit like Raymond Carver's novels, he says, in which nothing much happens but you sense that a lot is going on.

Thorpe's three-room flat in south London is a bit like that. The fine spray of glue settles everywhere, trapping dust and small objects in a glistening immobility. Several flatmates have quit rather than get trapped in it.

Interim Art: 0171-254 9607



MEDIA

VIRGIN RADIO: THE PEAKING OF THE GINGER EFFECT

Average number of listeners per week, millions



Snap, crackle, pop go the ratings

Time was when all Chris Evans had to do to attract listeners was turn up. But is he now losing his appeal? By Paul McCann

The "Ginger effect" at Virgin Radio may have peaked. Newspapers are already forecasting that ratings for Chris Evans's station will slip for the second successive quarter when the audience research for October, November and December is published on 4 February.

So what is happening at Virgin Radio and what will it mean for the career of Britain's most hyped broadcaster? Since Evans joined in autumn 1997, (and bought it two months later), the station's audience jumped up and has since fallen slowly back down. In three-month increments, the station's audience went from 3.2m, then to 3.9m, and to 4.2m. By June last year it had peaked at 4,244,000, then in October slipped to 3.91 - the figure that prompted the headlines.

Next month, it seems, the station will record another drop. Private tracking by rival stations indicates that the station should see a small increase in London but may lose another 130,000 listeners in total across the country. Evans's breakfast show itself lost 336,000 listeners in the autumn, and unofficial research suggests the fall is set to continue, if at a slower pace.

Adding to the suspicion that all is not well with Virgin's ratings is the appearance of Evans on a Virgin sports round-up show on Saturday afternoons. The man who left the BBC because he was too tired to do Radio 1's *Breakfast Show* five days a week and TFI Friday on Channel 4 every Friday is now working even harder at his own station.

"The station is very much Evans driven," says Cathy Lowe, head of radio at the media-buying agency New PHD. "There is not a lot of audience outside of the breakfast show, which should be a concern to them. Capital may need Chris Tarrant, but they do have some other winners like Dr Fox and Steve Penk."

Evans brought in Ray Cokes from cable channel MTV to do an early evening slot, but Virgin admits the programme didn't work and he left the station.

Jonathan Ross has done well out of Evans's tenure. He started off covering the breakfast show while Evans was on holiday in the summer and was then given his own Sunday show. Now he has a permanent contract to cover for Evans.

John Pearson, the managing director of Virgin, has a different outlook on the figures: "After the initial Chris factor, we are now trading as any other radio station would - where every listener is hard fought for. Over a three-year business plan, you expect some quarters to be better than others. Remember Chris is still 40 per cent up year on year."

The ratings fall should not be a surprise. Evans was always portrayed as the saviour of Radio 1, but in fact before he left his breakfast show had already peaked. When Evans took over the show on Radio 1, he took an audience of 6.1m and turned it into 7.36m in a year, unarguably a startling success. But just before he left, his ratings had fallen back again to 6.9m - a fact that was missed when everyone was concentrating on the ratings haemorrhage of his breakfast show



Chris Evans and his breakfast show team in happier times

replacements Mark (Radcliffe) and Lard (Mark Riley).

But the real importance of ratings now is not on Evans's ego, but on advertising revenue. And here the "Ginger effect" is yet to slip. In the 12 months to October, the first full year of Evans's time there, Virgin Radio took £27,836,000 in advertising, an increase of £6.8m or 33 per cent on the previous year. Given that the amount of money going into commercial radio over the same period increased by 18 per cent, it means Virgin's income is increasing almost twice as fast as the market.

Because Virgin's increase in advertising revenue has increased faster than the increase in listeners, advertising agencies must be paying a premium for the station - that is the Ginger effect. Because of the publicity Evans generates and the perception that his fans avidly listen to the station, and therefore its adverts, its well-run sales team has been able to get good prices from agencies. Although revenue figures are not yet available from when the station's ratings started to fall, media buyers haven't yet softened the price of Virgin airtime. They are

waiting to see if new audience figures show the trend continuing.

A climate of slipping ratings shows just how big a gamble Chris Evans was taking when he decided to put together a bid for Virgin.

Evans and the Ginger management own 60 per cent of the company. But in a complicated deal, what was bought in December 1997 was actually a new creation called Ginger Media Group. Richard Branson, who was planning to sell his station to Capital, swapped Virgin for 20 per cent of this new company and around £16m. The money came

from venture capital company Apax Partners, which owns 20 per cent of the company. More money was borrowed from the French bank Paribas. To raise the money for Branson, Evans effectively mortgaged his rights to TFI Friday and much of his future.

Apax was set up to bring American-style venture capital to the UK. Its style is to take risks that UK venture capital firms won't take, and it has been involved with Virgin since Branson launched it. But in return for taking bigger risks, Apax plays a very tough game. In the past, even very outwardly successful companies, such as the Covent Garden Soup Company, which have not fulfilled the Apax business plan, have been taken over. Apax will have no hesitation in taking over control of Ginger to get its value back.

Indeed some observers believe that Ginger moved from its original offices and crammed everyone into Virgin Radio in Soho after six months because of an order from the Apax boss, Alan Patricoff, to cut costs. Yet Ginger announced profits at Virgin of £10.5m in October which seemed an amazing turnaround for a station which is believed to have cost Richard Branson over £10m since he started it.

The profits come from the "Gingered" advertising revenue and a £3m deal with BSkyB for the satellite broadcaster to sponsor the breakfast show and for Ginger Television to come up with programme ideas for Sky One.

That Sky deal included simulcasting the Evans breakfast show on Sky each morning. That show has

not been a success. Sky's ratings for the show are so low as to be unmeasurable, and on air Evans himself can be heard disparaging the small number of viewers.

Other Ginger Television ventures have only been slightly more successful. The two showings of TFI Friday get 2.8m viewers together in slots that Channel 4 should expect to get nearer 5m. TFI has the advantage of keeping Evans and Ginger's talents at Channel 4 - but a university pub-quizz show for BBC 2 starring Ginger producer Will MacDonald has yet to be commissioned as a series, and the golfing show for Channel 4 hosted by Evans managed less than spectacular ratings.

Ginger Television lost its chief executive, Michael Foster, in an acrimonious fall-out last autumn, and last week announced that Eileen Gallagher, the former managing director of London Weekend Television, would be taking over the television division.

If Virgin's ratings continue to fall - and impact on advertising revenue - then the other parts of Ginger have to do better at making programmes which sell.

It will not be make or break for Chris Evans's future as a media tycoon, but 4 February will provide another sign that a whole business cannot be based on one man's broadcasting talents.

"There is not a crisis at Ginger," says one radio industry financier. "But the size of the gamble seems to have gotten bigger. Chris Evans will either make £100m from all this or he will go bust."

NME faces the music

Glossy magazines and the decline of Britpop has led to a fall in sales for the NME.

This month it will discover if a redesign has stopped the rot. By Paul McCann

THE LAST word on music journalism was Frank Zappa's. It was he who said: "People who cannot write, talking to people with nothing to say, for people who cannot read."

Another truism is that the music press is always in crisis. In the next few weeks the latest sales figures for NME will be released. They will show whether a radical redesign, completed this month, has saved Britain's most venerable music newspaper. If not, rock journalism is set to disappear forever into glossy magazines.

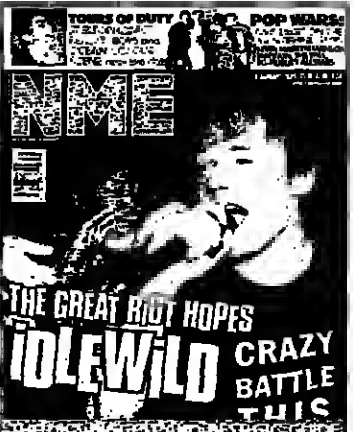
The last crisis to strike was dance music. The faceless creators of house and techno tunes hardly lent themselves to long features and personality journalism. Instead, they spent their time in their bedrooms and let DJs become the celebrities of the scene. DJs are, in the main, businessmen who are Lear-jetted around the country making thousands a night playing clubs. They rarely throw themselves out of hotel bedrooms and give paranoid interviews while on drugs.

For some titles, like Q and Mojo, there was a living to be made throughout the dance music explosion by targeting older readers. These were the guitar-band fans who found themselves back in the music market because they wanted to replace their albums with CDs.

Then came Britpop. Oasis, Pulp and Blur should have been like manna from heaven to the NME's and *Selects* of this world - because



Oasis brought readers to 'NME', but now the B*-witched tendency is hurting sales



here were rock stars again. NME increased its sales eight circulation periods in a row. Britpop probably came too late for *Melody Maker*, which is now selling 41,000 copies. This is less than *The Spectator* and down from over a quarter of a million in the Seventies. However, the glossy end of the music market and the general lifestyle magazines, like *Louder* and *FHM*, did even better out of the Britpop explosion.

IPC, the owner of NME, decided last year that it needed a revamp. After years as an inky newspaper, NME turned itself into a modern, review-section-type magazine last year. Unfortunately, the magazine's sales slide continued. It was selling 100,000 before its redesign and is now selling 92,000. In the next few weeks,

the six-month sales figures for July to December last year will be available; music fans and IPC alike will be watching with interest.

The problem NME has hit this time is an upsurge in pop - which stands for everything the magazine has always hated. Where once Oasis and Blur dominated, now it is the turn of B*-witched and Steps. "It is machine-manufactured music for machines to listen to," says Steve Sutherland, the editor of NME. "These are lean times for music magazines and pop is not an area we can write about."

NME is now trying to actively kick-start the next phase of musical fashion through marketing. Rather than a conventional awards ceremony, it has a documentary about its

readers' poll winners going on Channel 4 on 27 January and has just kicked off a 20-date tour of the kind of unknown bands it specialises in.

Yet ironically the doyenne of the pop magazine market is not doing well either. *Smash Hits* has recently appointed a new editor to stem years of decline as its teeny-bop readers have drifted into the general lifestyle magazines that serve them - titles like *Sugar* and *It's Bliss*.

"Almost every year I read a demise of the music paper article," says Steve Sutherland. "But it's a cycle. We will continue to find the hands that will be big. We will promote and encourage them. And at some point, we will kick off a whole movement, the way we did with Britpop. And we will grow again."

THE WORD ON THE STREET

EAGERLY AWAITED is the forthcoming story of Live TV by Chris Horrie, the man who wrote *Stick it Up Your Punter*, the story of The Sun. The book is being kept under wraps until the *Mail* on Sunday serialisation, fearing an injunction from Kelvin MacKenzie, one-time boss of Live TV. MacKenzie is aghast at this suggestion: "After what Horrie wrote about me in *Punter*, I've hardly got a reputation to protect," he says. MacKenzie is mostly upset that Horrie will make money from writing about his career. "I reckon he's made about £50,000 a year from me." Not surprisingly MacKenzie did not co-operate with the book - although he did agree to be interviewed if Horrie paid him £100,000. Horrie retorted that for that kind of money he could get someone decent - such as Sam Chisholm. The only time Horrie managed to get Kelvin's attention was when he wrote to him in Norwegian in honour of the channel's weather girl.

LAST THURSDAY the *Daily Mail* decided things were looking grim again for President Clinton. Under the headline "Could this boy bring down the President?" the *Mail* ran a picture of Danny Williams, the son of a prostitute allegedly fathered by Clinton. On Friday the *Mail* declared there was an "uncanny likeness" between Clinton and



the boy. According to the *Mail*, people used to look at Danny in Arkansas shops and say: "That must be Bill Clinton's boy." Well, as we now know, they were wrong. The DNA tests cleared Clinton, and yesterday a White House spokesman saying that if Danny looks like the President, "I'm a space alien".

IT WAS good to see ITN - in their coverage of the forthcoming royal wedding - go for a long period to the OK! picture editor, who said how wonderful Sophie was and what a great asset for the royals. And they ought to know, because the PR company that Sophie works for has OK! as a client.

CHARLIE WHELAN has not stopped spinning, whatever his present job situation. He was still telling journalists last week that Gordon Brown will be the

next prime minister of Britain, and more important, that he would be that prime minister's press spokesman. One doubts that Alastair Campbell ever dreams of a job in a Brown administration, but all too easy to imagine Whelan dreaming of the day he asks Campbell to clear his desk.

BBC 1 CONTROLLER Peter Salmon has been making excuses for his channel's fall in ratings on Christmas Day, compared with last year. Turns out we are all getting so many videos under the tree on Christmas morning - and watching them straightaway - that it affects conventional television ratings. The main culprit this year was *Titanic* - Salmon estimates that 3.5m copies of the video appeared in stockings this year.

Perhaps the BBC thinks that there should be a new rule - you can only watch your Christmas videos when there is another repeat on the telly.

THE NATIONAL Magazine Company boss, Terry Mansfield, famously blows a gasket when any of his editors gets poached. He recently attacked Emap for stealing Fiona McIntosh from *Company* to be editor of *ELLE*. Now rumour has it that IPC is trying to hire Mags' *Cosmopolitan*, to edit its deadly rival, *Marie Claire*.

Police corruption, child abuse, war orphans – no subject is too gritty for documentary film-maker David Hart. By Rhys Williams

I guess that's why they call it the Blues

When David Hart's production company, Hart Ryan, began work on a documentary about the Merseyside police five years ago, John Major was still Prime Minister, the party he led still had a working majority in the Commons and the team he supported – Chelsea – had about as much chance of winning the league as Iceland had of reaching the beach volleyball finals at the Atlanta Olympics.

Since then, the world has spun more than 1,800 times. Chelsea lead the Premiership, Labour is in power, and although Iceland remain a marginal force in beach volleyball, Hart Ryan has finally finished the film about the police. The results will be seen tomorrow night when BBC 2 screens the first in the five-part series, *Mersey Blues*.

OK, so there were certain extenuating circumstances, like the arrest and prosecution for corruption of one of the featured detectives. That delayed the film by a couple of years, but that still makes a total of three in the making. Such a protracted approach to the production process is rare to the point of anachronistic in quick-fix, while-you-wait Britain. It is not necessarily an operating standard at Hart Ryan, but nor is it feared or frowned upon by Hart. "We make programmes that we stick by when others would have long given up," he says.

Orphans of War, a feature-length documentary screened on Channel 4 last year, took a year and a half to make, while the company has spent as much time on a *Cutting Edge* film scheduled for broadcast this year, which is still unfinished. Called *The Accused*, it follows a couple accused of child abuse who are effectively gagged from protesting their innocence by the legal requirement to protect the child's identity.

Still, the patience seems to be paying off. Hart Ryan has been short-listed as best independent production company in this week's Broadcast Production Awards, while *Orphans of War* is nominated for best single documentary (a prize it

is widely expected to take). Its debut docu-soap, the eight-part prime-time *Lakesiders*, was well received last year and has helped company turnover nudge £2m. Around 35 people are currently working on two series for Channel 4 and two *Cutting Edge* films, while a commissioning editor at the network has just told them that Hart Ryan is their biggest supplier of documentaries.

It did not look this bright in April 1992 when, on his 50th birthday, Granada made Hart redundant after 20 years with the company. With the half century up, he admits feeling briefly that this was it, the end of his film-making career, and that maybe he just should take the pension.

I've worked for TV companies where, at the first sign of trouble, everybody runs. You think twice about what you know to be the truth'

"But I was pretty confident in the quality of my learning curve," he says. "I had been to film school, covered the Six Day War, I had been in Biafra and stood at Martin Luther King's lying in state."

And then there was the urging and support of his former Granada colleagues: Michael Ryan, who suggested they work together and, most significantly, Claudia Milne, who by then was at 20/20. During a yachting holiday that summer, she persuaded the pair to make a *Cutting Edge* film about maltreatment at Broadmoor.

The *Cutting Edge* team at Channel 4 suggested they make some more. The result was *Navy Blues*, a two-part about the Navy's Special Investigation Branch that drew in seven million viewers, then the highest audience for a Channel 4 documentary. More significantly, it drew public attention to the perse-

cution of homosexuals in the services and helped ensure the issue reached the floor of the Commons.

Hart Ryan followed up with *Shops and Robbers*, a landmark film that pulled in 10 million and beat ITV and BBC in the ratings. The back room in Hart's Tooting home was no longer large enough to house the company's rapidly expanding workload and ambition. There was the intensely controversial two-part film *Traitor King*, which exposed Edward VIII's far-right sympathies, and *The Core Connection* from the *Dispatches* strand, which revealed that children in care were being recruited as prostitutes.

"Leaving Granada was the best thing that ever happened to me, although I didn't think it at the time," Hart says. "It re-energised me. At 50, I'd have stayed, I'd have been making the odd film and looking forward to retirement. Whereas now..." But he is saddened by what his and other colleagues' departure has come to signify. "The old Granada of Sidney Bernstein and David Plowright was a place you felt safe. If you had a story and you believed in it, they would back you."

"We were savaged over the tea programmes [which revealed the dreadful conditions in which Sri Lankan tea pickers worked] because we attacked Brooke Bond and the Co-op. We were summoned to Sidney Bernstein's office and I thought we were going to get a hollocking. In fact, they said 'let's get the bastards'. I've worked for TV companies where, at the first sign of trouble, everybody starts running. You don't get any support and you think twice about what you know to be the truth."

"Current affairs and factual output has changed for a number of reasons, a lot of it to do with money. In the Seventies, they put resources into something knowing that after six months nothing might happen and we'd have to junk it. The whole question of risk has been taken out of television. Risk-taking is financially unacceptable, so the quality of television has declined as a result."

"The movement within TV, not just Granada and ITV is towards a position where the first thing anyone



Film-making by David Hart, above, has 'a real documentary function and a popular touch'. Below left, his latest offering, 'Mersey Blues'; below right, the highly acclaimed 'Orphans of War', up for a Broadcast Production Award Philip Meech, BBC



is interested in is what sort of audience is it going to get. British television is a lot worse off for that."

Alan Hayling, the editor of documentaries at Channel 4, says: "David's strength is film-making which has a real documentary function. He makes social documentaries that are different, but he has a popular touch. That is a tremendous skill. *Traitor King* was attacked by historians but no one has been able to fault its research. It made a really important contribution to the understanding of what Edward did at the beginning of the war."

Hayling believes Hart's great strength is his willingness to support young programme-makers, "to give them a break and some

kind of training". Sam Kingsley was a press officer at Channel 4 with no film-making experience before she helped produce and direct *Orphans of War*. The film follows the photographer Nick Danziger as he attempts to raise three Afghan children adopted from a Kabul orphanage. It is a moving story open to all sorts of sentimentalism, but the understated film keeps paths in check and lets the characters lead the narrative. "It's a tremendous film," says Hayling, "which raises all sorts of interesting questions about refugees, the war in Afghanistan, adoption and how Nick is dealing with it."

Jenny Crowther was once a secretary at Channel 4. Four years



ago, she produced *The Core Connection* for Hart Ryan, and now she has directed *Mersey Blues*. It is an observational series with extraordinary access to the Merseyside Police, owing less to the new vogue for docu-soap than to the traditional, issue-led documentary-making that Hart practised at Granada – the issue in this case being the unequal struggle between Liverpool's drug barons and its chronically underfunded police force.

It follows officers on drugs and firearms raids, portrays success as well as failure, and tracks a murder investigation. The recurring theme is austerity, from the bleak backdrop of the city to detectives willing to work overtime for nothing

(or "for the queen", as it's known). It features CCTV footage of doormen being shot at a Liverpool night club and, something of a break for the programme team, the arrest for corruption of one of the detectives in the series, Elmore Davies. Last year he was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison.

"I don't think that [his arrest and conviction] was luck, because I think it's very sad," says Hart. "He was very helpful to us. I never believed for one moment he was capable of the acts he was convicted for. I was astounded when it happened and, if given the choice between a scoop and him not being guilty, then it's the latter because it's a life that's been ruined."

What's a girl like you doing on a magazine like this?

The woman once voted 'most likely to run a brothel' is cracking the editorial whip at the *Erotic Review*. By Paul McCann

SEVENOAKS OBVIOUSLY doesn't produce many women quite like Rowan Pelling. Despite her cut-glass Home Counties accent and her education at a school for the daughters of missionaries, she has made it on to the hoardings of the *Sevenoaks Chronicle*. "Mother Defends Daughter's *Erotic Review*" promised newagents last year, giving hope to deepest Tory Kent that there was to be some salacious stage show in their midst.

In fact Rowan Pelling, the daughter, is the 31-year-old editor of the *Erotic Review* – the literary magazine with a bent towards sex. Just 12 months ago the *Erotic Review* was a quarterly four-page newsletter for the Erotic Print Society – purveyors of old-fashioned filth to a select mailing list.

Then Ms Pelling took over and the *Review* became glossy, attracting writers such as Auberon Waugh. She made the magazine a bi-monthly which by last Christmas was selling 30,000 copies an issue. Now this month it has become a monthly and the magazine distribution company Comag promises to get it into ever more newagents and book shops.

When Ms Pelling is asked what a girl like her is doing editing a magazine about sex in Soho, Sevenoaks would be proud of her reply: "I just thought there was something about the idea that was really jolly and British," she says. And she admits to being slightly predisposed to the job: "At school, we used to do these round robin stories where you wrote a line each, and I was very good at the sex and shop-

ping style. I also have a vague memory of being voted the girl most likely to run a brothel. I'm sure I wouldn't have been asked to do it if it was thought I would blanch at the idea."

Ms Pelling started as PR manager at the Erotic Print Society, but was soon taking the newsletter further than before. She approached Auberon Waugh to ask him to write. Then, deciding she had a quality magazine on her hands, she phoned Waterstone's to see whether they would stock it. In a stroke of genius she offered to let them keep the profits from the copies they sold.

Since then other writers have come aboard, with *The Independent*'s David Aaronovitch appearing in the next issue. Writers as diverse as the design guru Stephen Bayley, Toby Young, Naim Attallah, Michael Bywater, Peter Stringfellow and the former *Catholic Herald* editor Christine Odone have written for it.

Ms Pelling deals with the question of whether her magazine is porn in a disarmingly frank way: "No. Porn is mechanistic. People buy it for a specific reason. No one buys the *Erotic Review* to masturbate with." Indeed there may be the odd arousing tale, but most of the *Review* is just good writing.

"We thought we would say no to certain kinds of subject matter, but then in the Christmas issue we ran a piece about a mother and son by Simon Raven. It worked on many different levels – it was Ortonesque black humour from a deep vein of bad taste. But was funny enough and good enough to get away with it."

There is a sense that what really



Rowan Pelling: 'the odd arousing tale'

Neville Elder

distinguishes the *Erotic Review* from porn is class, but whether it is classy writing or social class is probably a moot point. There is a patina of poshness on the whole enterprise. Much has been written about how many retired colonels and vicars subscribe – and it certainly does best when advertised in *The Daily Telegraph*.

And Ms Pelling's first job after Oxford was with the original in-house public school magazine, *Private Eye*. The Erotic Print Society itself

was the idea of two posh art dealers – Jamie Maclean, son of Sir Fitzroy Maclean, and Tim Hobart.

The *Erotic Review* fits into that network of writers and chums which produces magazines on a shoestring – Pelling is the only full-time member of staff and sometimes works through the night to meet deadlines. It is much more like the *Eye*, *The Oldie* and the *Modern and Literary Reviews* than anything that might really upset her mum and the *Sevenoaks Chronicle*.

Can the top US business daily cut it in Europe? By Darius Sanai

Wall Street shuffle

IT WAS one of the most comprehensive savagings to appear in *Vanity Fair*. Karen Elliott House, the president of Dow Jones International and also the wife of the corporation's chief executive, Peter Kann, was portrayed by the investigative journalist Robert Sam Ansoo as a "ferocious" and pushy striver who trod on fellow executives on her swift rise to the top.

Many thought Ms House was finished. At the time, in August 1997, Dow Jones, the parent company of *The Wall Street Journal*, was suffering, laden with an expensive new financial-services acquisition, Telerate, and its share price was lagging. Members of the Bancroft family, the East Coast wasps who own the company, were openly expressing their dissatisfaction with Mr Kann and the whole board.

But today, as *The Wall Street Journal* celebrates its 110th birthday, the gravel-voiced Texan lady is still there. Telerate has been sold off. The share price has started to rally. And *The Wall Street Journal Europe* posted a record sales figure of 68,000 and its first ever profit last year.

"With the single currency, *The Journal*'s American roots are an asset," Ms House asserts in her husky drawl. "People need a publication that has a global perspective. They need to know what's happening across borders."

Ms House has a tough adversary in Margorie Scardino, who is at the helm of Pearson, who owns the *Financial Times*. Two tough American women and two giant business dailies are battling it for the European market. But *The WSJ Europe*, founded in 1983 and edited in Brussels, is still underperforming. Its Continental sales are 55,000, compared with 103,000 and rising for the FT in the key market of Germany. It is out of almost two to one (21,500 as against 12,000). In Britain, there's no contest, with the FT's 179,000 sale dwarfing *The Journal*'s 13,000.



However, *The WSJ Europe*'s editor, Frederick Kempe, is in bullish mood. "History plays into our hands now," he says. He believes that the euro and globalisation mean a newspaper with an American culture can explain developments better than any other.

But why should Europeans start buying *The Journal* when there is a plethora of home-grown financial publications – especially when, with its lack of photographs and colour, it looks dowdy?

However, the paper regularly carries original, and offbeat, stories, not all business-related, that are followed up by the British press. Its philosophy, carried over from its American sister, of absorbing facts and presenting forward-thinking analyses inside its news stories makes it stand alone among European newspapers.

"*The Journal* is in many ways the most European paper of all," says Jonathan Miller, the former managing business editor of *The European*. "The problem with the rest of the European business press, including the FT, is one of not thinking with a Continental perspective." Curiously, the main obstacle fac-

ing the Continental expansion of the world's biggest business newspaper may be doubts about its own business strategy. Dow Jones officials won't confirm whether a large promotional budget will be assigned, despite a \$200m investment in its American sibling. A senior editor on a rival Continental paper commented: "The more narrow-minded will always see it as an extension of US business imperialism. It'll take a lot of promotion to change that."

Mr Kempe agrees that there is a problem with perception. "It's a gross misperception that we're writing for American expatriates. That needs to be changed."

However, it is a perception reinforced by criticisms that the paper is reluctant to promote non-Americans and that its coverage of the rest of the world can still look like it was written by and for Americans. And, with an average year-on-year increase of fewer than 2,000 readers, the real question is: can *The WSJ* win over the European business community? The problem is whether a good product priced at £1.25 a day and perceived as quintessentially foreign is enough to stop the FT – the market leader – gaining a stranglehold on the market. *The WSJ*'s editors claim it is theirs for the taking.

On Wall Street, the historical critique of Dow Jones has been that, as a company run by journalists (both Ms House and chief executive Mr Kann are Pulitzer Prize winners), it lacks the business edge of rivals, such as Pearson. And, as a source close to the Bancroft family said: "The product isn't the problem." But with US sales strong (at 1.8 million) and the paper's interactive, subscription-only website widely regarded as the most successful of its kind, insiders say that the Bancrofts are happy to hold their peace for now. Ms House appears to have quieted her critics, for the moment at least, and the Battle of Euroland promises to be a long one.

NEW FILMS

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Director: Mark Herman
Starring: Jane Horrocks, Michael Caine
Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) cannibalises her dead dad's record collection, perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations, then falls in with Michael Caine's impresario, a low-rent, Bermuda-shirted buckster with one reamy eye on the big time. Breeds Elthyna rundles around in a hip-bugging mini-skirt as LV's mum. Ewan McGregor pops up as a simple pigeon-breeder, and seedy seaside cartoonery runs as a garish visual backdrop. Where Mark Herman's last film, *Brassed Off*, was a whole and solid effort, *Little Voice* proves altogether more bitty and piecemeal. For while the director does a decent spot of carpentry in remoulding Jim Cartwright's stage-play for the screen, the result still trades in gestures and caricature and is further hindered by tentative pacing. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from the rejuvenated Caine push it through to the final curtain. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Cinemas, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema. **Screen on Baker Street.** UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

PI (15)

Director: Darren Aronofsky
Starring: Sean Gulleita, Mark Margolis
Aronofsky's pungent debut idles in a kind of ante-room between maths lesson and art class, as Sean Gulleita's New York number-cruncher ponders a numerical code behind the holy Hebrew texts, and designer flourishes overrun the screen. The rhythm runs on a staccato beat - the tone is self-consciously lugubrious. What sustains *PI* is the pure-blood ingenuity of its central conceit. Its ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature" mantra, and the louche, too-cool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up, *West End:* Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green. **Screen on the Hill**

PSYCHO (15)

Director: Gus Van Sant
Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche
Homage or sacrilege? Photocopy or experiment? Whichever camp you fall into, Gus Van Sant's

shot-by-shot *Psycho* reconstruction is a bizarre undertaking. Here, the original's high-contrast black-and-white is dumped in favour of Edward Hopperish colour. Hefty Vince Vaughn stands in for twitchy Anthony Perkins, Anne Heche for Janet Leigh, and Julianne Moore for Vera Miles. In the meantime, Van Sant simply runs through a karaoke cover-version of the Hitchcock classic, a pitch-perfect bit of movie mimicry which has a definite curiosity value without ever quite adding up to much more besides. File this one under "White Elephants". **West End:** Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

THE SIEGE (15)

Director: Edward Zwick
Starring: Denzel Washington, Bruce Willis
A rare Hollywood attempt to get to grips with contemporary geopolitics, *The Siege* winds up a hopelessly fingers-and-thumbs affair. The nominal hook (Muslim terrorist bombing in New York) gets draped with all manner of garbled goings-on as Denzel Washington's FBI man rubs shoulders with Bruce Willis's gun-ho army renegade. Zwick desperately attempts to touch all the bases, but even the speedy, kinetic editing can't gloss over his film's messy marriage of perfunctory liberalism and noisy chest-beating. **West End:** Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PG)

Director: Howard Hawks
Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall
That immortal "You know how to whistle, don't you?" line aside, *To Have and Have Not* has come to be more highly regarded for its behind-the-scenes history than its narrative content. Conceived as a *Casablanca* cash-in, and irreverently adapted from what Hawks reckoned to be Hemingway's worst novel, this wartime drama is credited with getting Bogart (then an unhappily married megastar) together with 19-year-old Bacall. The taut, proficient plot has Bogart's Martinique-based skipper sandwiched between the Vichy government and the Free French resistance. Hawks directs with a pointed, easy grace. **West End:** Curzon Soho

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

THE ACID HOUSE (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

ANTZ (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as worker-ant "Z". **West End:** UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)

Samira Mahmalbaf's precocious debut stages a true-life re-creation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. Part docu-drama, part rites-of-passage fable, this is a luminous and extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. **West End:** Metro, Renoir

LABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of waifs. Comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak anti-tragic fairytale. **West End:** Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

DANCING AT LUGHANASA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, Pat O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever watchable Michael Gambou as the homecoming brother. Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature. **West End:** Barbican Screen

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** ABC Swiss Centre

ELIZABETH (15)

Shelagh Kaur's follow-up to *Barndi Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But opportunities for fun are largely neglected in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. **West End:** ABC Pantons Street, Curzon Minima, Odeon Mezzanine

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. This is a big, noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller, with a top-drawer cast including Jon Voight and Gabriel Byrne. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. **West End:** Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MULAN (U)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** ABC Pantons Street, Clapham Picture House, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to

head in Gray's thrilling drama. **West End:** Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The Parent Trap catches Disney reheating its 1961 Hayley Mills heartwarmer into a spy tale starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to reunite their parents (Natalie Richardson, Dennis Quaid). **West End:** Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

This remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* is actually not at all bad. Michael Douglas stars as the cuckolded city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his heinous wife. Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash; the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. **West End:** Warner Village West End

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks boncho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and his *Technical Dreamcoat*. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

RONIN (15)

Not that adding value, John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lend an air of knackered resignation to his latest movie, which stars Robert De Niro. **West End:** Odeon Mezzanine

RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's star in this hit-and-miss affair. **West End:** Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SITCOM (18)

In this scattergun satire of middle-class mores, François Ozon takes pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family. The result is savage and funny one moment, indulgent the next. **West End:** Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)

A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over, *Insurrection* hits the cinemas stuffed with in-the-know gags and wrapped up in more cornball romance than we're used to. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)

Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon star in this latest comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a soft-centred romance of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. **West End:** ABC Piccadilly, Odeon Mezzanine

WHAT DRREAMS MAY COME (15)

Robin Williams perfects a lopsided simper as the dead chappie who lights out to a cod-impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide-bride. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Haymarket, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Acid House (18)

A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh. Debut director Paul McGuigan turns this into a bit of a triumph, adapting his style well to the shifting landscape of Welsh's tales. A crackle, all told.



The Dream Life of Angels (18)

Erick Zúñiga's remarkable debut draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Elodie Bouchez) and Marie (Natacha Regnier), whose friendship comes alive amid the drab environs of Lille.

Mulan (U)

In Disney's animated tale, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from certain death in combat. This movie has it all, and is one of the most visually innovative films that Disney has ever made.

Out of Sight (15)

Steven Soderbergh's tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off previous Elmore Leonard adaptations, and boasts in Jennifer Lopez and George Clooney (above) the swiftest cinematic pairing of the year.

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scarily intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

ANTHONY QUINN AND XAN BROOKS

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Copenhagen (Cottesloe)

Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation (below). To 27 Jan

The Tempest (Barbican Theatre)

David Calder is a magnificently querulous and authoritative Prospero in an imaginative RSC staging by Adrian Noble. In rep to 4 Mar

Kafka's Dick (Piccadilly Theatre)

Spiriting Kafka to suburban England, this uproarious romp by Alan Bennett survives some peculiar casting in Peter Hall's revival. To 26 Feb

Just Not Fair (Birmingham Rep)

Moving account by Jim Robinson of 18 years' wrongful imprisonment of the Bridgewater Four. Will be performed in rep with Wilde's equivalent prison testament, *De Profundis*. To 30 Jan

A Month in the Country (Swan Theatre, Stratford)

A conjunction of two great artists and cultures. Ireland's finest living dramatist, Brian Friel, adapts Turgenev's proto-Chukhovich comedy. To 20 Feb

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Charlotte Salomon (Royal Academy)

"Life? Or Theatre?" Salomon's life in pictures. Her 405 raw gouaches tell the story of the German Jewish girl's hushe before Auschwitz - an expressionistic opera in three colours. To 17 Jan



Neurotic Realism (Saatchi Gallery)

First instalment of Charles Saatchi's new, made-up art movement, which, by a happy coincidence, consists entirely of works in his own collection. To 28 Mar

Chris Offili (Whitworth Gallery, Manchester)

This 1998 Turner Prize-winner is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, Afros and black icons, and incorporating elephant dung. To 24 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones (Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery)

This centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan

Grinting Gibbons (Victoria & Albert Museum)

The best chisel-work of the great 17th-century English woodcarver (above), who made intricacy and the abundance of nature his trademark. To 24 Jan

TOM LUBACK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

(0870-902 0418) @ Baker Street
The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
What Dreams May Come 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870-902 0404) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
The Last Days of Disco 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
My Name is Joe 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322) (from 1pm) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
The Last Days of Disco 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
My Name is Joe 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE

(0870-902 0402) @ Leicester
Square Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm
What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870-902 0403) @ Leicester
Square Buffalo 66 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The Eel 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The Government 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The Government 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham
Court Road Enemy of the State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm
Little Voice 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm
Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-638 8891) @ Moorgate
Dancing at Lughnasa 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Little Voice 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Little Voice 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 3323) @ Clapham
Common Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINIMA

(0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park
Corner Elizabeth 2pm, 6.30pm On
Coronet 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm, 10.30pm

CURZON SOHO

(0171-734 2255) (12pm-6pm) @ Curzon
Circus Elizabeth 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

ELPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET

(0171-703 4958) @ Elephant & Castle
Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
The Siege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0990-888990) @ Leicester Square
The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Psycho 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill
Gate x (P) 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm (X Short: Drip Drop)

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-907 0718) @ Ravenscourt
Park Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
The Siege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

KCA CINEMA

(0171-930 3547) @ Charing Cross
Angel Dust 6.30pm, 8.50pm
No Skin Off My Ass 5pm, 7pm

METRO

(0171-734 1505) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
What Dreams May Come 6.05pm, 8.35pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill
Gate x (P) 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm (X Short: Drip Drop)

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0870-050007) @ Camden Town
Enemy of the State 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
Psycho 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

(0870-050007) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
What Dreams May Come 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0870-050007) @ High Street
Kensington Enemy of the State 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
Psycho 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0870-050007) @ High Street
Kensington Enemy of the State 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
Psycho 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0870-050007) @ High Street
Kensington Enemy of the State 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
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ODEON KENSINGTON

(0870-050007) @ High Street
Kensington Enemy of the State 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
Psycho 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

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Kensington Enemy of the State 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
Psycho 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0870-050007) @ High Street
Kensington Enemy of the State 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
Psycho 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENS

TUESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.9-98.9MHz FM)
8.30 Zoe Ball, 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Kevin Greening, 2.00
Mark Radcliffe, 4.00 Chris
Moyle, 6.00 Dave Pearce, 8.00
Steve Lamacz, 10.00 Evening Ses-
sion, 10.00 Digital Update, 10.10
John Peel, 12.00 The Breeze-
block, 2.00 Clive Warren, 4.00 -
8.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake
Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce,
12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed
Stewart, 5.05 Johnnie Walker,
7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Great-
est Hits, 8.00 Nigel Ogden, 9.00
Vosburgh's Further Follies, 10.00
Susan Jeffreys Says Make It a
Double, 10.30 Richard Allinson,
12.00 Katrina Leschkanich, 3.00 -
4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air, 9.00 Masterworks,
10.30 Artist of the Week, 11.00
Sound Stories, 12.00 Composer of the Week:
Rimsky-Korsakov, 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-
cert, (R), 2.00 The BBC Orchestras,
4.00 Voices, 4.45 Music Machine,
5.00 In Tune, 7.30 Performance on 3, Francis
Poulenc was one of the century's
most successful composers of vo-
cal music, with a range very much
from the sublime to the ridiculous.
Penny Gore introduces a celebra-
tion of his achievement, featuring
leading interpreters of his music.
Rhapsodie negre, Francois Le Roux
(baritone), Nash Ensemble, Three
Nocturnes, Steven Osborne (pi-
ano), Trois poemes de Louis
Lalanne, Felicity Lott (soprano),
Graham Johnson (piano), Tel jour,
telle nuit, Ian Bostridge (tenor),
Graham Johnson (piano), Un soir
de neiges, Chansons francaises,
BBC Singers/James Morgan, Le
bal masque, Francois Le Roux
(baritone), Nash Ensemble. See
Pick of the Day, 9.40 Postscript, Paul Neuberg
continues his exploration of the
Communist project which sought to
use the arts to remould peo-

PICK OF THE DAY

THE CORNISH writer Nick
Darke, whose latest stageplay,
The Riot, is shortly to open at
the National, provides today's
Afternoon Play (2.15pm R4). In
Bawcock's Eve, versions of
the same myth about a heroic
boy-fisherman are told in a
Mousetrap B&B, which shelters
a mysterious, heavily pregnant
visitor. There is some superbly
tetchy dialogue, particularly

well served by Barbara Jefford's
Gran, whose voice sounds as
warm as an old harbour wall.
Radio 3 tonight covers
Poulenc in Performance on 3
(7.30pm) and Composer of the
Week (12midn't). In between
on Night Waves (10.45pm R3),
Richard Coles profiles one of
our finest living poets, Geoffrey
Hill (right).
DOMINIC CAVENTISH



United States talk frankly to Peter
White about how their disability
has affected their lives. 2: Bree
Walker. The television anchor-
woman talks about the genetic
disability of her hands and feet
which caused a furore in America
when she opted to have children.
10.00 The World Tonight, With
Anne McKenzie.

ple's minds. 2: 'Engineering the
Engineer's. With the dawn of the
socialist realist era, the re-engi-
neering of human souls - and the
reconstruction of writers and
artists into engineers of the vast
effort - took centre stage in the
drama of Communism and the
arts.
10.05 BBC Scottish Symphony
Orchestra. Introduced by Martyn
Brabbins in conversation with An-
drew Toovey. Conductor Martyn
Brabbins. Andrew Toovey: Red
Icon.
10.45 Night Waves. Richard
Coles profiles one of the most dis-
tinguished and challenging poets
at work in Britain today. Religion
and the horrors of the Holocaust
have been recurring themes in the
work of Geoffrey Hill, but in his
new, book-length poem 'The Tri-
umph of Love', he explores his
own 'slow haul to forgive'. See
Pick of the Day, 11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Poulenc. (R) See Pick of the Day.
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.
RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today, 9.00 NEWS: No Triumph, No
Tragedy, 9.30 The New Recruit,
9.45 Serial: The Doctor, the De-
fective and Arthur Conan Doyle,
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour,
11.00 NEWS: Nature: Insight,
11.30 The Galton and Simpson
Radio Playhouse, 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Full Orchestra.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: Elemental
Tales. Bawcock's Eve. See Pick of
the Day.
3.00 NEWS: The Exchange: 0870
010 0444.
3.30 Tales from the Village.
3.45 This Sceptred Isle.
4.00 NEWS: The Learning Curve.
4.30 Shop Talk.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 The Cheese Shop Presents.
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. John Wilson with
the arts programme.
7.45 Lady Susan. Drama: 'Lady
Susan' by Jane Austen. Adapted
by Lavinia Murray. With Harriet
Walter and Maggie Steed. Director
Jocelyn Boxall (2/10).
8.00 NEWS: True Colours -
South Africa Today. Johannesburg
and the Old Transvaal. Johannes-
burg, the economic heartland, is
also the engine of nation-building
in the new South Africa. Here they
talk about the African nation. But
where does that leave the whites?
8.40 In Touch. Peter White with
news for visually impaired people.
9.00 NEWS: Case Notes Special:
No Issue. 'Too High'. The ideal
contraceptive has yet to be in-
vented. Tracy Logan explores
how science will change fertility in
the future.
9.30 No Triumph, No Tragedy.
The second of six programmes in
which disabled achievers in the

Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57
Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00
Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 The Tuesday Match. Russell
Fuller presents coverage of all the
night's football action, including
the FA Cup third-round replays.
10.00 Late Night Live. The day's
big stories with Brian Hayes. In-
cluding 10.30 Sport, 11.00 News,
Finance, And between 11.30 and
1.00 a topical discussion.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.1-101.9MHz FM)
8.00 Nick Bailey, 8.00 Henry
Kelly, including 9.00 A selection
from the Hall of Fame. Plus Hen-
ry's High Flyer, a racing tip and
Record of the Week. 12.00 Re-
quests. 2.00 Concerto:
Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No 1
in B flat minor. Martha Argerich,
Bayreuth RSO/Kyrill Kondrashin.
3.00 Jamie Cullum. 3.30 News-
night. 7.00 Smooth Classics at
Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert.
11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto.
3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(215, 197-1260kHz MW 105MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans, 9.30 Russ
Williams, 1.00 Nick Abbot, 4.00
Harriet Scott, 7.30 Mark Forrest.
10.00 Richard Allen, 10.00 James
Merritt. 4.30-6.30 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(198kHz LW)
1.00 The World Today, 1.30 On
Screen, 1.45 Record News, 2.00
The World Today, 2.30 Water-
shed, 3.00 World Today, 3.20
Sports Roundup, 3.40 World
Business Report, 3.45 Insight,
4.00 - 7.00 World Today.

TALK RADIO
6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with
David Banks & Nick Ferrari, 9.00
Scott Chisholm, 10.00 Anna Rea-
burn, 3.00 Peter Deely, 5.00
The Sports Zone, 8.00 James
Whale, 1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

WHILE WE were bashing away in
Hastings and Morozovich et al in
Pamplona, a third closed tourna-
ment was under way in Reggio
Emilia in the north of Italy. This tradi-
tional event, oow in its 41st edition,
was at ooe time immensely uni-
formly strong - and correspondingly
eodowed with the seasonal spirit of
peace and goodwill.

Now it has slipped a little - down
this time to just category 8 - aver-
age 2.435. But this (presumably fi-
nancially necessary) loss in
numerical category has been pro-
duced not by inviting all weaker play-
ers but rather by having a much
more varied field, which this time
ranged from the Armenian Smbat
Lputian, rated 2.615, right down to
the Italian Constantino Aldrovandi
who is just 2.280 (presumably much
more on the eagerly awaited list) but
belied his bottom rating to surpass
himself and end up with a plus
score. The consequent imbalance
has led to a great gain in bellicosity
and this year they had no fewer
than 27 decisive games out of 45 -
a whacking 60 per cent.

The tournament developed into
a race between the three top rated,
with the Russian Evgeny Solo-
zhenkin eventually running out
clear first too 7. He was followed by
Lputian and Komarov (Ukraine)
6.5 and Aldrovandi on 5. The other
scores (all are Italian, apart from
Tomescu who is Romanian) were

Efimov 4.5, Vezzosi 4, Borgo, Tom-
escu and Drei 3 and Anceschi 2.5.

It would be foolish to judge a
young player on any single result,
but it's clear that Aldrovandi has im-
proved at a great rate. He scored two
wins and just a single loss to
Lputian, and showed great tough-
ness in defence, especially in a re-
pulsive endgame in the last round
against Vezzosi.

This is his deceptive win against
Tomescu. White's bad queenside
pawn structure looked a problem but
after he achieved f4 - Black might
have played ...g5? earlier - White
got space. At the end 30... Rb6 loses
to 31 Bxc5+.

White: Constantino Aldrovandi
Black: Vlad Tomescu
Reggio Emilia 1999 (Round 6)
Exchange Spanish

1 e4 e5	16 Kf1 Ne6
2 Nf3 Nc6	17 Be3 Rd8
3 Bb5 a6	18 Rb1 b6
4 Bxc6 dxc6	19 g3 Ke7
5 0-0 f6	20 Ke2 Rf8
6 d4 Bg4	21 h4 c5
7 dxe5 Qxd1	22 Rf1 c4
8 Rxd1 fxe5	23 f4 Nc8
9 Rd3 Bx3	24 f5 N7
10 Rd3 Nf6	25 g4 Nd6
11 Nc3 Bb4	26 Kf3 h6
12 Bg5 Bxc3	27 Rd1 Rh8
13 bxc3 Nd7	28 Bc1 Nf7
14 Rd1 Rf8	29 Bb3+ c5
15 Rxd3+ NxR8	30 Rb1 1-0

CREATIVITY

LOKI

HERE, FINALLY, are those New
Year Resolutions - for other people
to keep.

But first, R.J. Pickles's belated
alternative Christmas speakers
and messages are: Damien Hirst on
Modern Butchery Techniques,
Salman Rushdie on Writing Popu-
lar Fiction and the Spice Girls on
Radical Gender Restructuring in a
Post-Feminist Era.

Meanwhile, all that Mike Gifford
really, really wants is for the Spice
Girls to ginger up their act, for
Camilla Parker Bowles to tie a
Windsor knot and for Mandelson
and Robinson to "neither a bor-
rower nor a lender be". John Bur-
rows would have Geoffrey R atone
for his bung-al by selling all that he
bath and giving it to the poor, and
Maggot T admit the Poll Tax was a
putrid mistake.

Martin Brown wants Dolly the
sheep and a proliferation of similar
clothes to assert their individuality
by dyeing their wool green or
gnawing off their feet or taking up
cannibalism; and for dodos, woolly
mammoths and sabre-toothed
tigers, Jurassic-Park-like recon-
structed from their DNA, to
resolve to try harder not to become
extinct, second time around.

Several frustrated readers seek
improved performances in 1999.
Susan Tomes, a Misery Line com-
muter, wants platform indicators to
say "train approaching in 1
minute" for oo more than 10 min-
utes. Please? Thirsty Kirsty would
like Thames Water to stop charg-
ing her twice (once as water rates,

then metered) for using the same
water once. And Canny Annie
would like London Electricity to
stop the scam of charging her on
ber landord and the builder for the
same electricity units. Is that too
much to ask? And Pirate Jane
would like her flagging lover
Richard to give her a Jolly Roger.
Paul Turner wants George Melly
to ditch pinstripes and stupid hats
and sport a full suit of armour,
visor firmly shut, rendering him
both inaudible and invisible.

J.R. Gore would like Paddy Asb-
down to avoid going into Labour.
Rupert Murdoch to accept that the
Sky's the limit and Saddam Hussein
to stop eating his Kurds and weigh
for his bung-al by selling all that he
bath and giving it to the poor, and
Maggot T admit the Poll Tax was a
putrid mistake.

And Loki's three wishes are:
more women to write for the col-
umn; Maggy Higgs, J.R. Gore and
R.J. Pickles to enjoy the Chambers
Dictionaries of Quotations they
have won, and for everyone to
write in, by 21 January, suggesting
some possible uses for a 450-word
Creativity column in a week (like
last week) when oo contributions
are received, to Creativity, The
Independent, 1 Canada Square,
Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.
Three prizes of copies of Chambers
Dictionary of Quotations for the
most inspired. On 19 January we
shall sum up the dire and unfore-
seen consequences of that leap
second being added.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

THE WORD "maverick" must be
one of the most overused in
journalism. However, it really
does apply to director Samuel
Fuller. Often difficult, his work
never runs the risk of being
staid or conventional. It is
examined in detail in tonight's
documentary, The Typewriter,
the Rifle and the Movie
Camera (9pm FilmFour), in
which the octogenarian is
interviewed by Tim Robbins
(right). Back in California,

Robbins and Quentin Tarantino
pay a visit to Fuller's study,
which contains mementoes, his
first movie camera and scripts
which were never filmed. The
evening also showcases some of
Fuller's finest movies, including:
Pickup on South Street (6pm),
starring Richard Widmark and
Fory Guas (7.30pm), where
Barbara Stanwyck gives an
iconic performance as a whip-
wielding ranch-owner.
JAMES RAMPTON



U-boat War (1957), 12.00 Antaresica
(1957), 12.00 History's Turning Points
(1957), 12.00-1.00 Flightline (1957),
1.00-2.00 Flightline (1957), 2.00-3.00
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